

Rabbani, Hekmatyar reach agreement

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — President Afghan leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has reached a peace accord with President Burhanuddin Rabbani at their first meeting since fighting erupted last month, officials said Friday. The fundamentalist chief of Hezb-e-Islami and the president reached a peace accord after three hours of talks in the town of Paghman, outside Kabul, on Thursday afternoon, Hezb official said by telephone from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar. "We should avoid further confrontation," the Hezb-run Afghan News Agency (ANA) quoted Mr. Hekmatyar as saying at the meeting. The two sides agreed to withdraw from Kabul all former communist militia, now integrated into armies loyal to Mr. Rabbani's government, ANA said. It was the first time the two arch-rivals had met since Mr. Hekmatyar launched a blistering rocket and artillery bombardment of Kabul on Aug. 10. More than 2,500 people were killed and 9,000 injured in the fighting between the two armies that raged for three weeks in and around the capital, destroying large areas of the city. They also agreed to set up a commission of representatives from all Mujahideen parties to organize a shura, or council, that would decide the composition of Afghanistan's future government, ANA said. No confirmation from Kabul was immediately available.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشأة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

IAEA to monitor Iraq water

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plans to monitor Iraq's inland waters to check on whether it is fulfilling commitments to destroy its nuclear weapons facilities, IAEA head Hans Blix said on Friday. "Part of the long-term monitoring plan will be an extensive and periodic radiochemical survey of the surface waters of Iraq," Mr. Blix told a news conference. "This will provide the agency with an important tool to detect changes resulting from the possible resurgence of nuclear activities," the agency director-general added. "The water analysis would help catch radioactive activities in the given area and be a pointer that illegal work is being carried out there," Mr. Blix said. Mr. Blix was talking on the eve of the annual general conference of the Vienna-based IAEA, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, which opens on Monday. The IAEA is carrying out nuclear inspections for the U.N. Security Council to ensure Baghdad is complying with U.N. resolutions to destroy all its nuclear weapons facilities. Mr. Blix said the IAEA had carried out 14 inspection missions over the past 16 months which had shown Iraq had operated a "widely based, well-funded programme... To make the necessary preparation for the design and manufacture of nuclear weapons."

Volume 17 Number 5109

AMMAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1992, RAB' AL AWAL 22, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King sends good wishes to Mitterrand

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand, congratulating him on the successful surgery he had undergone and his recovery. The King wished President Mitterrand and the French people every success and prosperity. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also sent a similar cable to President Mitterrand, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government.

Germany, U.S. back Russian debt plan

MOSCOW (R) — German and U.S. leaders have told President Boris Yeltsin they would support Russia's request for the deferral of its massive foreign debt to the two states, a presidential spokesman said Friday. Anatoly Kravtsov said in a statement that both countries supported Moscow's bid for a multi-year deferral of a portion of its debt. "It was stressed that in telephone conversations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and U.S. President George Bush both leaders expressed their understanding and support for the position of Russia," he said.

Israeli firm says it is invited to S. Arabia

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli computer software firm says it has been invited to take part in a science and technology exhibition in Saudi Arabia, despite the official state of war between the two countries. Carmel Programme Engineering, which designs anti-virus software, had received an invitation to the "Saudi Computer 93" exhibition next February, spokesman Shlomo Peretz said Friday. Mr. Peretz said the 14-year-old, Haifa-based company was the first Israeli firm invited to Saudi Arabia, which participates in the Arab League boycott of firms that have dealings with the Jewish state. Mr. Peretz said Carmel had to seek Israeli government permission to exhibit in the Arab state. "The boycott against us is still on, but Saudi Arabia has been progressive about dealing with Israel," he said. "We live in a small world so we might as well take advantage of this opportunity."

Rabin: Too much callousness in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says Israelis treat each other too harshly and have too little concern for their fellow man. Mr. Rabin's comments, delivered before an Israeli lawyers' group on Thursday, were reported in Friday's English-language Jerusalem Post. "Many in our society suffer from callousness today. I don't know why," the 70-year-old Rabin said. "There are many among us in whom the spark of humanity has diminished. In the once compassionate Jewish heart, I find too much insensitivity to others, too much competitiveness," he said. "Over the past few years we have seen a process of growing estrangement and harshness in human relations and too little concern for one's fellow man. What has happened to us?"

Cheney: No 'no-fly' zone in Bosnia

LONDON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on Friday cautioned against speculation that Western powers were ready to enforce a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, calling it a "sideshow" that could do little to end the civil war there. "There is a notion somehow that the French, the British and the Americans are all negotiating so we can put together a no-fly zone 'policed' by Western warplanes," he said. "I'm not certain that's quite accurate. There is a lot of interest and talk about a no-fly zone. But it is a bit of a sideshow compared to the bigger problem" of how to bring a political solution to the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia. He spoke in an interview with newspaper executives and reporters at the U.S. ambassador's residence as he was winding up a visit to Britain and France to discuss the civil war with top government leaders (See related stories on page 5).

Israel-Syria talks reach an impasse

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli-Arab peace talks appeared to be stuck in a rut at the end of the third week of Middle East negotiations as Israel and Syria clashed over the future of the occupied Golan Heights. Syrian negotiators, angry at Israel's refusal to discuss withdrawal from the Golan Heights, stalked out nearly an hour before their normal session time on Thursday declaring the U.S.-brokered peace process was at an "impasse" and urging Washington to step in to salvage the talks. Palestinian negotiators told a separate news conference they have little confidence their negotiations with Israel were going anywhere.

Jordan said it had nothing new to report (see page 2). According to Israel's only "paying" lip service to the peace process, after his team stalked out of Thursday's morning session, chief Syrian negotiator Mouwafaq Al Alfi said:

"It is now evident that all the hopes and expectations about a so-called change in Israeli policy concerning the quest for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict were mere illusions."

Israel sought to play down the differences between the two parties and chief negotiator with Syria Itamar Rabinovich said Damascus was "trying to stage a mini-crisis."

But, acknowledging the talks were passing through a hard moment, Mr. Rabinovich suggested having contacts with Syrian delegates over the weekend. "We were willing to devote efforts over the weekend in order to restore the negotiations on track," Mr. Rabinovich said. Only a day earlier, Mr. Alfi and Mr. Rabinovich said the talks were going well and that the two sides were preparing to discuss withdrawal from the strategic plateau.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered his team not to raise the territorial issue until Syria spelled out its plans for peace with the Jewish state. Syria is demanding full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, home to some 18,000 Syrians, in exchange for peace and common security arrangements along the border.

But Israel, which says it is willing to withdraw only from parts of the Golan Heights, insists Syria agree first to a full peace agreement with Israel, including exchange of ambassadors and open borders. Syria has not rejected the Israeli demand.

The Syrian-Israeli clash occurred when Mr. Alfi demanded to start discussing Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Alfi said the Israeli side informed him at the talks they were not ready to discuss anything about withdrawal before

they hear from Syria on conditions for peace including normalization of relations.

The Israeli-Syrian talks have overshadowed Israel's separate negotiations with Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians which are also continuing in Washington.

Mr. Rabin, in his first response to the impasse, said there could be no talk of returning the Golan until Syria said what it meant by peace.

"We came to the peace negotiations wanting to know first of all what kind of peace we are discussing with them. So long as they are not ready to clarify this definition... there is nothing to discuss on territorial matters," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

Mr. Rabin said Israel wanted to know if Syria was ready for "full peace, open borders, diplomatic relations, embassies, and secondly a peace that stands on its own two feet," regardless of the results of Israel's talks with the other Arab delegations.

Asked about the impasse, Mr. Rabin said: "I suggest to wait a little and see. Little by little."

Mr. Rabin, on his return from Germany on Wednesday, said he believed Israel could achieve peace with Syria within six to 12

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Arms talks review confidence-building measures; Jordan, Syria try 'new language,' page 2

Israel conditionally accepts diaspora delegates in multilaterals

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli government has conditionally agreed to accept the participation of diaspora Palestinians in the multilateral talks on refugees and the economy, a Palestinian official said Friday. However, the basic Israeli objection to members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinians from East Jerusalem from participating will remain in tact, said the member of the Palestinian steering committee for the multilateral talks.

"The Israelis have two objections as far as the multilaterals are concerned, the senior negotiator told the Jordan Times this weekend. "First they want us to replace our chief negotiators on the refugee and economic committees because they are Palestine National Council (PNC) members and secondly they don't want us to bring up the issue of

the right of return." The current heads of the committees on refugees and economy, Dr. Elias Sanbar and Dr. Yusef Sayegh respectively, are members of the PNC, which the Israelis say is an arm of the PLO and should thus be banned from the negotiations.

The "right of return," as embraced by U.N. Resolution 194 "should not be on the agenda," the Israelis have told Palestinian negotiators during informal meetings held in occupied Jerusalem during the last two months, Palestinian negotiators say.

"The whole issue of the agenda is silly because we don't even have an agenda yet," the West Bank-based negotiator told the Jordan Times.

Palestinian negotiators believe that the Israelis will eventually agree to let some Palestinians return into the part of Palestine that became Israel in 1948. "Those who will be allowed to return will be limited in number

and the Israelis will not agree to this from day one. But eventually an agreement will be made on this issue," said the senior negotiator, who is also on the refugee committee that is scheduled to hold its second round to talks this November in Ottawa, Canada.

According to the Palestinian negotiators, Dr. Sanbar, a Paris-based Palestinian intellectual, and Dr. Sayegh will continue to head their respective committees despite Israel's threat to boycott the talks for the refugee and economics committee for the second time in a row.

The Israelis, Syrians and Lebanese delegations failed to show up during the first round of multilateral talks on refugees and economic cooperation held in May.

The Palestinian delegates say they believe that Israel is trying to win 'points' with the media by making it seem as if "allowing

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Germany expected to cut interest rate to end European currency crisis

PARIS (R) — Expectations mounted on financial markets Friday that Europe's currency crisis would culminate in a fresh reshuffle of exchange rates accompanied by a deep cut in German interest rates.

Speculation against vulnerable currencies remained intense, but some stock and bond markets rose sharply as investors looked beyond the storm to calmer waters. In France, the central bank battled furiously to hold the franc above its limit in the semi-fixed exchange rate mechanism (ERM), selling billions of marks and letting short-term interest rates soar at one point above 20 per cent.

Such pressure, brought to a head by uncertainty over Sunday's French referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, appeared unsustainable, as Britain learned when it had to cut loose the pound on Wednesday after a ferocious speculative onslaught. "Everybody knows this isn't going to last long," said Christopher Potts, an economist with Banque Indosuez in Paris. The markets sense a "no" vote, or a weak "yes" vote showing weak French commitment to

Europe, would send so much money into the safe haven of the mark that a broad ERM realignment, paving the way for easier credit, would be inevitable.

But investors have lost so much confidence in current exchange rates because of the recent turmoil that even a comfortable French majority for Maastricht may not be enough to stave off pressure for a reshuffle.

In either case the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, would be expected to tackle the root cause of the current imbalances — the high interest rates that make the mark so attractive and cause such political and economic pain for Germany's neighbours.

Thus, although the Bundesbank ruled out a further cut in interest rates after Monday's half-point reduction, the futures markets now anticipate a drop of a full point by December. Many economists think the cut will have to come much sooner and British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont kept up the pressure on Frankfurt by saying that he would not put the pound back into the ERM until Germany had changed its ways. Some economists paint a scenario similar to that of last Sun-

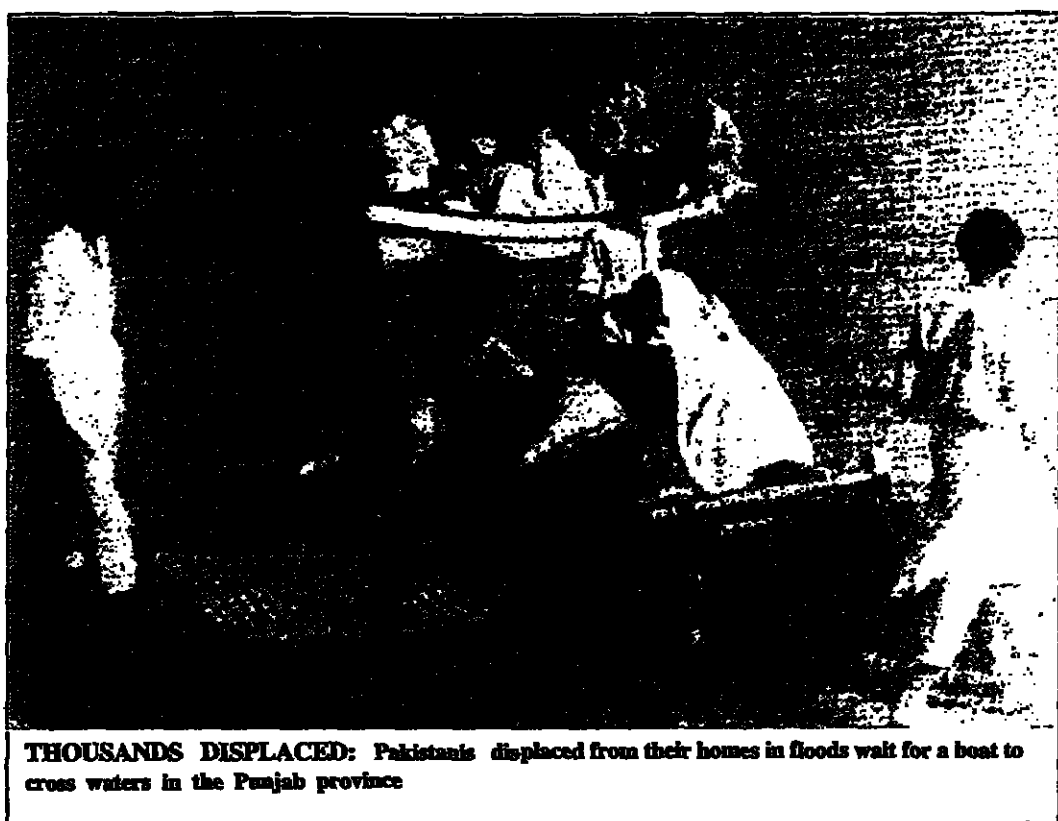
day, when the Bundesbank agreed to cut rates in return for a seven per cent devaluation of the lira.

While some ERM currencies like the peseta and escudo are widely tipped for devaluation, the crucial question is what would happen to the French franc.

France's success in maintaining the franc's value against the mark since 1987, after half a dozen devaluations in the preceding years, is a potent symbol of the Franco-German alliance which forms the backbone of the European Community.

"If the franc gets devalued, the EMS as we know it gets blown away. What's at stake is absolutely enormous," Mr. Potts said. The government is unlikely to hesitate to raise interest rates sharply on Monday if necessary to defend the franc, but Mr. Potts said that even a jump of two to four percentage points might not be enough to repel speculators.

The Bundesbank sent a signal of support to France Friday when its deputy president, Hans Tietmeyer, said the franc was more a candidate for appreciation than depreciation.



THOUSANDS DISPLACED: Pakistanis displaced from their homes in floods wait for a boat to cross waters in the Punjab province

Government cautions journalists against 'illegal' coverage of Nafeer case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government, in a move that will virtually eliminate media coverage of the investigation against two Lower House deputies, has warned newspaper editors that publishing stories could put them at risk of prosecution.

The Ministry of Information said in a letter that it wanted to draw editors' attention to a 1959 criminal proceedings law which states that newspaper editors could be imprisoned for publishing information which could influence judges, witnesses or court staff entrusted with investigation.

According to the law, editors could also be made accountable if they published information which could prevent anyone from giving information to the court or affect public opinion with a view to making it favourable to one party or another in the case.

The punishment, according to this law, includes imprisonment for no more than six months and payment of a fine not exceeding JD 50.

A senior government official, however, explained that while the law makes it "extremely difficult" to cover the case, journalists can still report news and facts even though they have to consult more closely with their lawyers.

Some Jordanian and Amman-based foreign journalists understood this law to mean almost a blanket ban on reporting on the case, since "anything" that might be written on the issue might be broadly considered to influence the course of the investigation and trial.

Ministry officials also contacted Amman-based journalists of foreign news organisations to inform them that the law also applied to them.

"The Ministry of Information is drawing the attention of editors and media people in Jordan to

certain clauses in the law which regulates the public proceedings of cases under investigation," Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said in a statement quoted by Reuters news agency.

Officials said the warning was prompted by recent stories which they described as unfairly prejudging the outcome of the expected trial.

The warning also follows requests by the public freedoms Committee of Jordan's labour organisations that newspapers stop coverage of the proceedings.

"We, in the Public Freedom Committee, prompted by our conviction that every citizen has the right to a just and fair trial, without any outside influence, hereby call on our press to deal with the issues in question in a comprehensive manner, and not to make any prejudgements or assumptions before the court gives a verdict," said the letter to

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Israeli soldier stabbed in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was seriously stabbed Friday and then dumped at a gas station after he hitchhiked a ride in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army and radio reports said.

Troops closed the area and with the help of helicopters searched for the assailants, the army said. The soldier was waiting for a ride near the town of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip Friday morning when a car with yellow Israeli licence plates stopped, the army said.

The radio said the soldier got into the front seat in violation of standing orders. After the car had passed an army checkpoint, two men in the back seat stabbed the soldier repeatedly in the neck and seized his weapon, apparently an M-16, the report said.

The army statement did not say if the attackers were Arabs. The radio report referred to them as "terrorists."

The men dumped the soldier from the speeding car at a gas station near the Nezarim settlement, the radio said.

The army said the wounded soldier was found tied up near Nezarim and was taken by helicopter to Sorokka hospital in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba.

The radio identified the victim as Lior Caravani from the town of Yavneh.

Settlers petition, page 2.

Arafat: Israel hampers peace talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has accused Israel of hampering the Middle East peace talks and appealed to Western diplomats to press the United States to intervene, diplomatic sources said Friday.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said Mr. Arafat reviewed the current round of talks in Washington in a meeting with the ambassadors or charge d'affaires of France, Britain, China, Russia, Belgium, Portugal, Austria and Sweden.

"Israel is attempting to hamper the peace talks and persists in ignoring the basics of the peace process as stressed in the... the letter of invitation for the conference" said in U.S. President George Bush's initiative," Mr. Arafat is reported to have said. Diplomatic sources in Tunis said Mr. Arafat made it clear to the ambassadors he would like their countries to appeal to the United States to take action to overcome the obstacles to the peace process.

The U.S. letters of assurances presented to the Palestinians and Mr. Bush's initiative in March last year stressed the principle of exchanging land for peace under U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Palestinian negotiators said Thursday they have little confidence their talks with Israel on a five-year period of self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza were going anywhere.

Two senior PLO officials were quoted Friday as saying the issue of Jerusalem was now the main obstacle to progress in the Middle East peace talks and required the intervention of Washington and Moscow.

Bahrain's daily Al Ayam quoted Mahmoud Abbas and Nabil Shaath as underlining in separate interviews that the co-sponsors of the peace conference, the United States and Russia, should present proposals to eliminate this obstacle.

China vague on arms sales

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen made contradictory statements regarding Beijing's policy on arms sales to the Middle East while visiting Israel this week, an Israeli government spokesman said Friday.

Mr. Qian told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Thursday that Beijing would not sell weapons to Middle East countries, Mr. Rabin's office said in a communique after the meeting.

But Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said the Chinese delegation spokesman later told Israeli reporters the Chinese interpreter had erred and China does not rule out arms sales to the Middle East.

Chinese officials accompanying Mr. Qian on the three-day visit

attributed the conflicting versions to an error in translation. Mr. Qian answered questions in Chinese but understands English.

Israel has expressed concern over Chinese arms sales to the Middle East. Mr. Qian assured Israeli leaders a nuclear reactor China sold to Iran is solely for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Qian did not deviate from China's official position, presented in an earlier meeting to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, that it would continue to sell a limited number of defensive arms to the region, the Davar daily, quoted the Chinese spokesman as saying.

Mr. Ben Ari said the Israeli reporter brought this to his attention. "Since we don't speak Chinese,

we have to go by the translation," Mr. Ben Ari told the Associated Press. "The statement was made very clearly by the translator on behalf of the foreign minister."

Mr. Ben Ari said no one from the Chinese delegation asked the prime minister's office to fix the error. "We have no intention of pursuing it further," Mr. Ben Ari added.

The statement said Mr. Qian thanked Mr. Rabin for cancelling a proposed sale of Israeli jets to Taiwan.

China this week confirmed it would boycott Middle East arms control talks of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council in protest at planned U.S. warplanes sales to Taiwan.

Rafsanjani: Iran does not seek conflict

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday that his country was not looking for a territorial confrontation with Arab neighbours, Tehran Radio reported.

But he added that Tehran would defend the sovereignty it has claimed over Abu Musa, a strategic Gulf island also claimed by the emirate of Sharjah.

Mr. Rafsanjani warned Gulf Arab states that the United States and the West were behind the dispute over Abu Musa, an island strategically located in the Strait of Hormuz, the only entrance to the oil-rich Gulf.

Last week, after months of dispute, Iran claimed sole sovereignty over the island, which is inhabited both by Arab and Iranian residents and is used as a military base by Iran to monitor traffic in and out of the Gulf.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) — of which Sharjah is

part — and its allies in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have condemned the Iranian move. The Arab League also condemned it Monday.

"Our policy is not confrontational," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who was speaking in a sermon at Tehran University.

"But our policy does call for resistance, defence of our soil, and standing up to humiliation," he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani said he did not understand why the Gulf countries had raised such a hue and cry over the issue. He cautioned them that differences among Gulf countries would only benefit the United States and the West.

The row escalated earlier this year when the UAE accused Iran of deporting Arab residents on the island. The dispute came to a head earlier this month when Iran turned back a shipload of teachers and their dependents returning to Abu Musa from Shar-

jah. The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the passengers were not from the UAE and therefore needed prior permission to land on the island.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Friday that Iran was doing nothing more than tightening security on the island.

He said this was necessary because "seven or eight months ago" an armed Dutch man in a speedboat had been arrested near the island. He said the man was imprisoned.

It was the first time such an incident has been reported. The Dutch government has not reported that any of its citizens were missing in the area.

Iran sent in troops to Abu Musa and the nearby islands of Greater and Lesser Tubs in 1971. It struck a deal with Sharjah for shared control of Abu Musa. Tehran paper says U.S. may seize islands, page 2.

JWA says it meets water-distribution target

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Water Authority (JWA), has denied news reports that it was failing to implement its programme for the distribution of water in the Kingdom.

Rumours about water shortages and the decrease of water reserves in the country are not true, said the water authority regularly seeks to distribute water to citizens, JAW Director Mu'taz Bilbeisi said Thursday.

"The local press last week repeatedly criticised the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for failing to implement its water distribution programme."

Mr. Bilbeisi said the water situation in Jordan was "good and the dams are still full of water."

He said that the Water Authority is committed to the water distribution programmes with the purpose of ensuring water supplies to all citizens in various parts of the Kingdom.

Meanwhile in Washington, the working group on water in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace talks has reportedly entrusted Japan and the Euro-

pean Community with undertaking measures leading to the construction of desalination plants in Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Advanced technology will be used in the process and local personnel will be trained to handle desalination plants.

Canada pledged to undertake a comprehensive survey of modern technology to be employed in the proposed project in cooperation with Middle Eastern parties taking part in the conference.

Dr. Munther Haddadin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the water working group's meeting said that the European Community has called on the United States to cooperate with Russia and Japan to pave the ground for the first step in this regard.

He said that participants in the meeting have agreed to continue their discussions on various matters related to water and to study working papers submitted to the talks by the various parties.

Dr. Haddadin said Switzerland has expressed readiness to host the group's next meeting, to be held next year.

Irbid Municipality plagued by huge debts

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Municipality will not be able to offer satisfactory services to the city's residents due to huge debts and lack of funds, Irbid Mayor Sami Irbidat said.

Mr. Irbidat said the city's municipal council has inherited JD 7.5 million of debts from previous councils which, he claimed, committed many financial violations, exhausting the city's funds and burdening its budget.

He said these violations were mentioned in a 1990 report prepared by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The previous council, Mr. Irbidat said, did not adhere to 1992 budget and did not collect fees due to it from citizens as well as rent on property.

He said the municipality's 1992 budget has a deficit of

JD 308,000. The budget, which was endorsed by the ministry, is not practical, he said.

The mayor criticised the ministry for asking the council, which was elected this year, to collect fees due to it by citizens when previous councils have failed to do that for the last 12 years. He called on the ministry to pay special attention to Irbid's Municipality and to help it provide satisfactory services to Irbid residents.

Mr. Irbidat criticised the ministry for asking the municipality to cover its deficit without "informing us how to do that without receiving support, borrowing or rescheduling the debt."

The mayor called on Irbid residents to join hands with the municipality in its effort to overcome its financial problems.



Time to leave: Street vendors are no longer allowed to roam the streets of Amman due to 'social and security concerns' (file photo)

Street vendors banned from the capital

AMMAN (Petra) — Streets vendors will be removed from all districts and streets of Amman and will be prohibited from selling any merchandise near schools, according to a decision taken by Amman Governor Issa Omari and announced Friday.

The announcement said that street vendors will not be allowed to keep their goods on or near the pavements, public gardens, public squares or under bridges. They will also be banned from spending the night or sleeping in the streets.

The governor also decided to assign special areas where workers looking for daily jobs in the capital can gather. Amman Municipality will make sanitary services available at these areas.

Private sector trucks and vehicles will also be restricted to certain parking areas in the capital.

al, the announcement said, adding that a special body will be created by the municipality to supervise these areas.

Concerned authorities will take immediate action to enforce these decisions, the announcement said.

The meeting reviewed the general conditions in the capital, with special focus on the groupings of workers, street vendors, and machinery and trucks in Amman streets, public gardens and other places, the statement said.

It said that the "random chaotic conditions (in the capital) were harmful to public health, the social and security situation, and impeding the flow of traffic."

Mr. Omari ordered that the decision be enforced immediately to remove what he called harmful effects on the capital.

More students opt for vocational training

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has reported an increased demand for vocational training programmes.

Director of the ministry's Vocational Training Department Ali Nasrallah said that 5441 female students and 6654 male students in the first secondary class enrolled this year in the vocational training programmes.

In the department's estimate nearly 35 per cent of the total number of secondary school students are now taking vocational training courses.

The Ministry of Education is offering vocational training programmes for secondary students at 255 schools around the Kingdom. They include industrial, agricultural programmes, hotel management, nursing and other courses, Mr. Nasrallah said. This year, the ministry introduced computer maintenance courses.

Commercial courses, which include typing, is being given to secondary students at 70 schools in Jordan, he said.

He said female students are being offered training courses in cosmetics and dress-making in 40 schools provided with all necessary equipment and qualified instructors, he said.

He said the ministry is offering agricultural training to students at 10 different agricultural stations.

It is hoped that 50 per cent of the total number of male and 30 per cent of female students will be joining the vocational training courses by the end of the year 2000, Mr. Nasrallah said.

Distribution of aid to the needy begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special committee raising funds for the needy will Saturday start distributing food supplies to poor people in various governorates.

The announcement was made by Chairman of the committee Mr. Hamdi Tabbaa, who said that JD100,000 in cash and an unspecified amount of foodstuffs have been collected from individual citizens and organisations in Jordan.

Sub-committees have been charged with distributing the food supplies to needy families in two stages: One taking effect immediately and the other once His Majesty King Hussein has returned home.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has set up the committee and sub-committees in order to divert funds which were to be spent on celebration King Hussein's recovery to charity works. The committee was established upon instructions from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Mr. Tabbaa said the committee would purchase sufficient foodstuffs to be distributed to 600 poor families in each governorate. He said that each of these families will receive 50 kilograms of rice, 50 kilograms of sugar, one kilogramme of tea, one tin of cooking fat, two cakes of soap and two bags of children's milk.

Iraq invites traders to its market but few seem willing to take the offer

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Iraqi Minister has called on Jordanian businessmen to step directly into the Iraqi market in the latest bid by Baghdad to break the impasse in the flow of foodstuffs from Jordan, traders said Friday.

The call was made during a two-hour meeting Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh held with a group of 25 Jordanian businessmen who were also told that they had "nothing to fear" from the Iraqi crackdown on "unfair profiteering by Iraqi merchants," one of the participants said.

Mr. Saleh, making an overnight stop in Amman on his way home from Tunisia where he attended a meeting, said that "the Iraqi market was open for Jordanian businessmen and that they should increase their activities there so that the Iraqi people get their basic daily needs," said the participant, who preferred anonymity.

"(The minister) said that only merchants who repeatedly violated government directives and sought to make massive profits by hiking prices were being punished," said the participant, a leading importer of canned foodstuffs.

Mr. Saleh hinted that "relaxed rules and regulations" could be offered to Jordanian businessmen

to facilitate their entry to the Iraqi market and "fill the vacuum left by the suspension of activities by Iraqi traders," he added.

Jordan was Iraq's main lifeline for foodstuffs and medicine until late July when Baghdad launched a crackdown on merchants in a bid to control sky-rocketing prices. At least 42 Iraqi merchants accused of profiteering were executed.

The executives, backed up on the flow of goods from Iraq; Iraqi businessmen, who used to buy foodstuffs and truck them to Iraq from the Kingdom's free zones, immediately suspended their activities for fear for their lives.

According to Jordanian businessmen, the daily volume of goods shipped across the border to Iraq has declined to 30 per cent of the pre-execution levels.

"An average of 6,000 tonnes of various items were being shipped every day before the executions," said a trader. "Now, the volume is less than 2,000 tonnes, and most buyers are acting on behalf of the Iraqi government."

During Friday's meeting, which was attended by three representatives of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, the businessmen cited the instability and unpredictable fluctuations of the Iraqi dinar as another major reason that was dissuading many from buying and trucking goods to Iraq.

"No trader is willing to buy in

Jordan applying an exchange rate of 24 Iraqi dinars to the dollar only to find that the rate applicable in the Iraqi market is 40 or 45," said the general manager of a prominent Jordanian company which used to ship up to 300 tonnes of foodstuffs to Iraq every day.

"Essentially, it is a problem that the Iraqi government should solve," he said. "Unless they adopt clear and concrete measures to stabilise the dinar, nobody would like to do business with Iraq," he added. "This is what we told the Iraqi minister this morning."

Few of the participants in the meeting appeared willing to take up the minister's offer to open the Iraqi market for Jordanian traders, the businessmen said.

"Regardless of the assurances given by the government, we do not feel comfortable about venturing into the Iraqi market," said a wholesale grain dealer in Amman. "After all, there is very little we can do if the government tomorrow orders a freeze in prices of some of our items and imposes a ceiling below our cost price."

According to chamber of commerce officials, almost all Jordanian traders preferred to sell their goods to Iraqi merchants at the Kingdom's free zones rather than getting into the Iraqi market themselves.

A prominent Iraqi business-

man who is believed to be using Iraqi government funds to procure foodstuffs and medicine said that his country did not have "strategic reserves" of food and that unless the impasse in the flow of goods from Jordan was resolved soon, Iraqis "could face serious difficulties and higher prices."

Mr. Saleh's meeting in Amman was the latest Iraqi government effort to restore traders' confidence and reassure them that the executions were a one-time affair which would not be repeated. But Iraqi businessmen are lukewarm to the overtures.

The meeting, held at the Amman Plaza hotel, only involved Jordanian foodstuff merchants at the request of the minister, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"It was clear that the minister was focusing all his efforts on foodstuff supplies and did not raise any other point during the meeting," said one source.

According to diplomats, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, the Iraqi government is now paying a flat charge of \$100 for every truck entering central Iraq from Kurdish-controlled territories in the north carrying mostly Turkish products.

"The money is actually collected by Kurdish rebel groups which have set up checkpoints on the fringes of their territory," said one source.

Businesses still feel the bite of sanctions against Baghdad

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two years after the Gulf war and the enforcement of the economic embargo against Baghdad, Jordanian businesses are still feeling the bite of the loss of what once was their major export market.

Before the crisis erupted in August 1990, Iraq absorbed 24 per cent of Jordan's exports. Now, only 9 per cent of Jordanian products find their way into that war-ravaged country. The loss amounted to millions, forcing some industries to close down and others to dramatically slash their production.

Eighty per cent of Al-Jadeed industries' production of kerosene heaters, gas cookers, aluminium ladders and baby buggies, walkers and strollers were sold in Iraq before the war. The closure of the market meant an annual loss of \$3 million for the company, forcing it to lay off 50 employees and reduce production, says its Managing Director Kamal Kalish.

The German ambassador referred to the "excellent relations" between Bonn and Amman saying that they are progressing in various fields.

Almost all pharmaceutical firms in Jordan had to halt their transactions with Iraq because of Baghdad's inability to pay for its needs of medical supplies.

Iraq wants to work out arrangement whereby payment for its purchases will be made three years later "but, unfortunately, our financial situation does not allow us to do that," says Samer Darwazah, director general of Al Hikmah Pharmaceuticals Company.

He says Jordan's annual medical exports to Iraq fell from \$30 million before the war to \$14 million. Al Hikmah's own exports to Iraq fell by 50 per cent, from \$10 million to \$5 million.

The shipping business was also hurt by the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq. Though shipping activity at the port of Aqaba is 75 per cent higher than it was at the beginning of the crisis in 1990, delays to Aqaba-bound shipping by U.N. inspectors in the Gulf are proving costly to Jordanian importers, according to Rudain Kaware of Rawar Shipping.

Belgian delegation leaves Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A Belgian parliamentary delegation left Amman for the occupied Arab territories Friday after a three-day visit to Jordan during which it met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, government officials and members of Parliament.

A spokesman for the Belgian embassy in Amman told the Jordan Times Friday the delegation, which is led by Deputy Speaker of the Belgian parliament Gilbert Bossuyt, will also visit Egypt and Syria.

The Belgian delegation on Thursday held a series of meetings with members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and with Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz.

Deputy speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouani and Speaker of the Lower House Abdul Latif Arabiyat and the Belgian team held talks on parliamentary cooperation and reviewed the Middle East question.

The visiting delegation discussed with the Minister of Planning the general economic situation in Jordan and the economic restructuring programme undertaken by the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent offers condolences to Pakistani president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday expressed deep sorrow for the death of Pakistani citizens killed in floods that swept the country last week. Prince Hassan sent his condolences in a cable to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Sharif leaves for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Friday left for Cairo to attend the 50th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Information, due to convene at the Arab League headquarters Saturday. The session will discuss Arab information systems in light of the international changes and developments, the optimal use of Arab satellites, and the establishment of a specialised Arab information council, in addition to endorsing the draft statute of the council. Also figuring high in the information ministers' meetings will be developments in the occupied Arab territories and means of channelling information and cultural support to information and cultural institutions there.

Kabariti serves as acting information minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Friday appointing Minister of Labour Karim Al Kabariti to serve as acting information minister during Mr. Mahmoud Sharif's absence on official business abroad.

JDA takes part in dentistry conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) is taking part in an international conference on dentistry, opening Saturday in Berlin. The six-day conference will review working papers on the latest technology in dentistry and a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on efforts undertaken by the third world countries to improve dental services. A four-member delegation will represent the association at the conference.

Council to provide aid to Somalia

AMMAN (Petra) — The 51st meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council, which was held this week in Tunis, decided to provide urgent assistance to the Somali people now facing starvation, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour who attended the meetings. In a statement upon returning here from Tunis, the minister said that the council passed a number of decisions aimed at bolstering inter-Arab economic and trade relations.

Yemeni delegation, Health Ministry reach agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Initial agreement has been reached in talks between a visiting health team from Yemen and Minister of Health Aref Bataineh over the treatment of Yemeni nationals in Jordanian hospitals. This was disclosed by the Health Minister following talks with the visiting team Thursday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramallah, Nabila Haddad and Doudi Tahar at the National Gallery, Jabal Lwadih Park.

★ Exhibition entitled "The Horizon" by Artist Queen Al Samar and Najat Al Rabi' at the Housing Bank Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Iraqi artists Bahija Al-Hakem and Sajida Al-Mashaykeh, at Alna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Turkish artist Sabahat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of sculpture and enamel on copper by Moustafa Ali and Shereen Malla at Baladina Art Gallery.

★ Lecture in Arabic by Dr. Wameed Nazmi entitled "Democracy in the Arab World", at the Abdul Hameed Shouman Foundation.



Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh (right) and German Ambassador in Amman Heinrich Reimers Thursday sign an agreement rescheduling Jordan's debts to Germany (Petra photo)

Jordan, Germany sign debt rescheduling agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany has signed an agreement with Jordan rescheduling the Kingdom's debts and interests that were due by the end of 1991, during 1992 and the first half of 1993.

Jordan's debts to Germany are estimated at DM76 million, of which DM68 million are owed to the German Development Bank and the rest to the German Corporation for guaranteeing credits.

Under the terms of the agreement, signed Thursday, Jordan will pay back its debt to the German Development Bank over 10 years, following a 10-year grace period, and will pay back debts to the German Corporation over a seven-year stretch, following a grace period of eight years.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh, who signed the agreement with the German Ambassador in Amman Heinrich Reimers, expressed appreciation for Germany's continued support for Jordan. The minister said that Germany has been consistently providing financial and technical aid to the Kingdom, which has been facing critical circumstances. He expressed hope that Germany would continue to provide assistance to the country.

The German ambassador referred to the "excellent relations" between Bonn and Amman saying that they are progressing in various fields.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

The Jordan Company for T.V., Radio & Cinema Production invites international specialised manufacturers to submit their offers for the supply, delivery & installation of multichannel multipoint distribution television system for greater Amman area in accordance with tender specifications available at the Jordan Company; head of supplies section for a (100) Jordanian dinars. Offers should be submitted by 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 29, 1992. A 5 per cent bid bond should be included.

Jawad Maraqa
Director General

Notice: Fees of advertising will be charged to the contractor.

CONSULAR SERVICES AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

Non-immigrant Visa Applicants

The Consular Section of the American Embassy is open for non-immigrant visa applicants from 07:00 to 09:00 at the new chancery in Abdoun. All applicants who arrive before 09:00 can be assured they will be interviewed that day.

Applicants who have been refused twice in the last six months are asked not to reapply until at least six months from the date of the last refusal.

For information, call 813-293 between 13:30 and 16:30. Immigrant Visa Applicants (Except Iraqi Nationals)

Immigrant visa applicants are interviewed only by appointment. For information, call 821-226 between 08:00 and 12:00.

Iraqi Immigrant Visa Applicants

Iraqi immigrant visa applicants are interviewed only by appointment. For information, call 823-824 between 08:00 and 12:00.

American Citizens Services

American citizens seeking routine services are received between 10:00 and 12:30. Emergency services are available at any time by calling the embassy at 820-101.

Notarial Services

Notarial services are available from 08:30 to 10:00.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Director General:

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

The enemy from within

IRAN'S SPIRITUAL leader Ali Khamenei can revel in his conspiracy theory and accuse the West of being behind the controversy resulting from Iran's formal annexation of Abu Musa Island in the Gulf. His warning to Arab rulers in the Gulf to be "vigilant against these conspiracies and satanic provocations (of the West) and his advice to the Arabs to "distinguish their friends from their enemies" will not pass as exactly coming from a friend. Iran's decision to annex the island and expel Arab nationals from it was certainly no gesture of friendship. The Arab League last week condemned the Iranian decision and Syria, probably Iran's best friend in the Arab camp, was among those who denounced Iran's aggression and said it "gravely endangers the region's security and stability." Iran cannot really be hoping for a role in the Arab Gulf's regional security if it went on annexing territory and coveting other Arab territory. If Iran wants us to believe that this is a satanic Western conspiracy it should first rescind its decision and show good neighbourly intentions towards the Arabs in order for us to consider her as a friend and fellow brotherly Muslim country. Tehran should stop all meddling in internal Iraqi affairs and stop arming Iraqi Shiites in the south and fuelling separatist rebellion.

No matter what intentions Iran has for Abu Musa and notwithstanding its security concerns, our big neighbour needs to demonstrate some measure of goodwill towards smaller Arab countries and the Arab World as a whole. One such measure could be to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice. By doing so Iran would show a measure of respect for international legitimacy and for its neighbours to the south and west. Some countries in the Western Hemisphere would probably be delighted to see new divisions arise within Arab and Muslim ranks. Clearly such divisions make the West's quest for preserving its interests in the region all the much easier. But it is up to us, Arabs and Iranians to deprive the West of that opportunity. The West is not responsible for the conflict between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. At least we do not think so. We believe Iran is the culprit in this particular case. As such it is up to Iran to heed the Arab call for rationality and a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of trying to place further obstacles in the path of a Middle East settlement by trying to deal with only part of the crisis and reach partial solutions with individual Arab states. The daily said that in his statements made in Germany, Mr. Rabin made it clear that he was after reaching separate deals with separate parties, giving attention at present to the Golan Heights. The paper said that Mr. Rabin's statements gave clear indications that Israel wanted to settle the Golan issue in exchange for normal relations with Syria, a reminder of the Camp David Agreements which saw Israel and Egypt reaching a separate deal, with no regard to the other Arab parties and the Palestine question. But, the paper continued, the Arab parties to the current round of talks with Israel in Washington are well aware of the dangers inherent in Israel's ploy and its evil designs. Syria has already rebuffed Israel's overture in this regard, said the daily. So far, Syria has made it clear that it would not go it alone with Israel and that it is demanding that peace should be achieved on all fronts with all Arab parties, based on U.N. Security Council resolutions and on the idea of exchanging land for peace, the paper pointed out. What Mr. Rabin wants from Damascus, is to have normal relations with the Jewish state, an exchange of ambassadors, open borders and trade relations, without committing Israel to recognising the rights of the Palestinian people, added the daily. The paper said that local administration to the Palestinians can by no means fulfil the Palestinian people's legitimate rights nor can it ever bring peace and security to anyone in the region. The paper urged the Arab parties involved in the Washington and their countries' joint stand vis-a-vis a peace settlement to the whole Middle East crisis.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily pointed out to the non-ending water distribution problem in the Amman Governorate and said that no one is satisfied with the work of the water authority. Nazih said that neither in summer nor in winter is the water distribution programme implemented while the water crisis continues unabated. It seems that the water authority had decided to close its ears to public complaints and allow Amman residents to fall victim to the exploitation of the water tanker owners who charge a lot for their precious water, the writer said. The water authority claims that it is pumping water to all regions according to plan, but the water authority realises at the same time that much of this water is lost underground through leakage from the old, worn-out network, said the writer. He said the Amman residents, every day stop streets flooded with water due to broken pipes, which takes a great deal of time to repair by the water authority, and they watch helplessly while realising that the tanks on the roofs of their homes remain empty.

For poor South it's time for a break

By Eric Fottorino

Samir Amin has made a considerable contribution to Marxist economic thinking since 1956 in such books as "Imperialism and Unequal Development" and "Neo-Colonialism in West Africa." His work highlights what he calls the "polarising" dimension of capitalism. In his view, the world economic system can be broken down into two poles, with a developed "centre" appropriating the resources of many "peripheries." He argues that underdevelopment arises not from the backwardness of poor countries but from constant transfers between the centre and the peripheries. He believes that the salvation of the Third World lies in "disconnection," that is to say a self-contained form of development in which the peripheries free themselves from their ties with the capitalist North. Cairo-born Amin, advised General Nasser on planning in 1957 and the heads of several African states following their independence.

What, in your view, were the lasting major changes brought about by the discovery of America five centuries ago?

October 1492 marked the birth of the modern world and the appearance of the phrase "for better or for worse." Before that turning point in history, it was power that procured wealth. After it, the accumulation of wealth became a source of power.

At about that time two important phenomena occurred simultaneously. The first was capitalism in its "prebureaucratic" form, in other words mercantilism, which placed a very clear emphasis on rationality. There occurred an ideological and cultural break which Europeans called the Renaissance. It was a way of denying the feudal period and welcoming a form of rediscovered antiquity.

The second phenomenon was the beginning of the conquest of the world. Europeans realised for the first time they could establish their domination. But it is important to keep in mind that their technological superiority was the result, not the cause, of that conquest. It wasn't until the industrial revolution that the West enjoyed decisive material superiority.

Over the last five centuries, the only phenomenon observable in linear fashion has been polarisation. I refer to the ever-widening gulfs between the societies that make up the modern world. They are gulfs that cannot be compared with those that existed in the past.

In the 19th century in took Germany 50 years or so to catch up and overtake Britain and France. How long will it take Brazil to catch up with the United States, in view of its external constraints, which are much more of a burden than they were a century ago?

How do you explain capitalism's propensity to increase inequalities?

The cause of polarisation is straightforward: capitalism as a world system doesn't function on the basis of a truly worldwide labour market. Despite the existence of immigration, there is no possible comparison between movements of workers and the extraordinary mobility of capital and goods.

As a Marxist, do you condemn capitalism out of hand?

No. Capitalism has had two major positive effects. It has en-

abled productive power to grow massively (though that is also its flaw — ecologists are drawing attention to the destructiveness of exponential growth). And it has contributed to the secularisation of societies and the emergence of bourgeois democracy.

This last aspect needs to be explained. Capitalism is founded on mercantile alienation. It presupposes an ideology that regards increased productive power as playing the role once played by God. Earlier societies were governed by a divine or metaphysical structure such as Hellenism or Confucianism.

Capitalism broke with all that. To progress, it was no longer enough to apply the eternal laws of God. Other forms of organisation had to be invented. The result of that was bourgeois democracy.

It hasn't done as badly as all that, when you look at the recent collapse of Eastern Europe's "people's democracies" or the implosion of the former Soviet Union.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was faced with a contradictory task in a backward country: it had not only to catch up industrially and militarily, but to create "something else," a socialist society.

From 1930 on, the aim of catching up took priority, while the ambition of creating "something else" became a hollow and misleading catchphrase. The Soviet system had nothing to do with socialism. What collapsed last year was a form of capitalism. The Soviet Union had engendered its own bourgeoisie, which, like all bourgeoisies, aspired to wealth through ownership of the means of production.

Today, eastern Europe is clearly in a state of complete disarray, and its democracies are extraordinarily vulnerable. Mr. Yeltsin's models are Pinochet's Chile or South Korea. The present regimes there could turn out to be a transition between dictatorships and other forms of autocracy.

Of the three pillars on which the postwar world was founded, it was, you say, "Sovietism" which collapsed in the most spectacular fashion. But capitalism has also had its ups and downs, with the end of what you call "Western Fordism."

Fordism was a social compact between capital and labour which had been in operation since the World War II. It operated in a

doubly favourable environment, where the existence of national productive systems — one could still talk of a French, a British or a German industry — was matched by the existence of substantial leftwing forces.

Fordism collapsed when national productive systems were swept away by the globalisation of the economy and of production lines scattered all over the world.

Surely post-Maastricht Europe could be regarded as the prototype of just such a superstate?

No, because Europe suffers from its narrow initial vision, that of a common market. Ten years ago I had hopes that the leftwing forces of Europe would take the initiative of implementing a common policy that would improve social legislation in the various EC countries.

The opposite has happened. Europe will continue to be run by technocrats. That is why I'm against the idea of a single currency, for it will be an absolute and undemocratic constraint. The Bundesbank will clean up! German expansionism is on the march, and the Germans couldn't care less about Europe. They have room to grow towards the east, which they regard as their Latin America. What were needed were political forces organised at European level and a true democracy that went further than the Strasbourg parliament.

Even so, surely Europe has benefited from the end of the cold war?

Less so than the United States, which has reestablished its military hegemony. For years people told us the cold war carried within it a tremendous danger of conflict. In my view, there was no real danger, just constant blackmail by the two superpowers. What was very real was military bipolarity: arms were the only

field in which the Soviet Union had in fact gone some way towards catching up. We're now back in a situation like that of 1944, when the United States had a monopoly of atomic weapons. At that time, they used them. I believe the risk of such weapons now being used to settle even the smallest conflicts has increased enormously.

Has Europe really any chance of existing in the face of American "hegemony"?

I don't think so. There was one man I admired in Europe, despite his rightwing leanings, and that was General de Gaulle. He was the only postwar leader who realised after 1945 that Britain had made what was probably an irreversible historic decision — that of aligning itself unconditionally with the United States.

He was also the only person who understood the nature of the American nightmare. He talked of a Europe stretching "from the Atlantic to the Urals", which would include the Soviet Union, so as to put Franco-German relations on a more balanced footing. If Eurasia had seen the light of day, the United States' bid for hegemony would have been pointless.

In your work on the "centre" and "periphery," you have always stressed the role of the North-South dimension in the impoverishment of the less-favoured nations. It's almost as though it were an inevitable process.

If a World Bank expert had been around during the pre-capitalist era, he would have hailed as a miracle what was happening in Brazil's Nordeste, the south of the United States, Santo Domingo, and Haiti. They enjoyed fabulous growth rates, based on mercantilism and slavery. Brazil's foreign trade was three times greater than England's.

Those countries and regions have been robbed of their function in the modern capitalist world. The non-industrialised Third World is the theatre of regression. That was the subject of my thesis in 1956, and it still holds true today: there can be no such thing as catching up.

Capitalism, as a polarising system, creates second-class areas. Some countries on the periphery have become industrialised. But their decision-making is remote-controlled by the centre or centres through technologies, capital markets, means of information and so on.

But these are all factors of development, aren't they?

One has to be clear about what one means by development, a value-laden notion that refers to some planned society of the future. There's much more involved in development than the mere spontaneous effect of booming capitalism. What is actually happening today is that capitalism is expanding.

At the 1955 Bandung Conference in Indonesia, the countries of the South had hopes of catching up without trying to introduce a new form of society. They were interested in catching up in a context of interdependence, within the framework of economic globalisation. They didn't necessarily want to clash with the countries of the North, which were in a dominant position. They thought that once they had gained political independence their countries' internal conditions would enable them to accelerate the process of catching up.

Bandung spawned two types of regime. On one side there were far-left governments like Algeria, Iraq, and Egypt, which were radically nationalistic, not very democratic, brutal, and founded on state ownership; and on the other there were far-right neo-colonial

regimes like Ivory Coast and Kenya, which believed that the only way to take off economically was to open up their frontiers to world capitalism more extensively. In neither case were proclaimed objectives achieved.

But history marches on. The movement has run out of steam. Although the Third World has begun to industrialise (at varying rates), several evils have made their appearance: slower growth, increased social inequalities, untrammelled urbanisation, declining rural areas, and mounting foreign debts. The Bandung aim of catching up through interdependence was attempting the impossible. The only way the South can survive is through disconnection.

Do you mean a return to autarky?

Not exactly. In poor countries, a form of development that meets the material needs of every social stratum has proved impossible within the capitalist framework. Disconnection is not just an easy way-out, but a decision involving a principle, that of disconnecting the criteria of rationality from the internal economic decisions of those who run the world system.

The non-aligned countries proposed this new international economic order in 1975. It was aimed at revising the rules of interdependence and creating an area of autonomy that would have allowed the spirit of Bandung to live on. The North said no.

The time had come for the World Bank to implement its structural adjustment policies. Certain countries in Latin America, South East Asia, and the Middle East have been able to start industrialising. Many others — certain regions of India, the Antilles, Central Africa, and the whole of black Africa — are being marginalised.

Many of the countries you mention are experiencing a population explosion. Isn't that a peril for development?

I don't like the word "peril," which the Europeans invented to describe the population increase in Asia. The West now fears the population of the Third World. But the Europeans, too, had their own "population revolution." Between 1700 and 1900, their proportion of the world population rose from 20 to 40 per cent. That enabled them to "colonise" whole continents like America and Australia. The Third World can't look forward to anything like that.

You refuse to be labelled a "Third-Worldist." Is it because that school of thought has apparently run out of steam in the last few years?

The Third-Worldist discourse has vanished from media debate, but that doesn't mean it's dead. It's the people of the West who have exhausted their ideas of development. As for me, I'm not so much a Third-Worldist as a "worldist" — Le Monde.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Divide and rule: Israel's new policy shows the new leadership's true colours

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The ongoing peace process in Washington, Iraq, Iran's occupation of Abu Musa Island in the Gulf and domestic issues were the focus of the Jordanian press in the past week.

A columnist in Al Dustour warned against the Israeli government's attempts to divide the Arab parties at the peace process, noting that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has been intent on concluding a separate deal with Syria over the Golan Heights.

Taber Al Udwan said that the Arab parties are advised to hold on to their joint stand that of asking for a comprehensive peace, covering all aspects and involving all parties to the conflict at the same time.

What the Arabs must insist on, the writer said, is a final solution for the Palestinian problem, in implementation of U.N. resolutions.

Israel is trying to follow the Camp David Agreements, with Egypt, by a similar one, with Syria, over the Golan Heights, said Al Dustour daily.

The paper said that Syria has so far refused to budge from the joint stand taken by the Arab parties about reaching a comprehensive solution with Israel, but it seems

that Mr. Rabin is pursuing all efforts to secure a separate peace with Syria and cause division within the Arab parties involved in the peace process.

These views were echoed by Al Ra'i daily, which said that instead of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the Israelis are trying to ignore Arab demands and are refusing the Palestinians' drive to attain their inalienable rights in their homeland.

The paper said that Mr. Rabin's recent statements in Germany reflect Israel's adamant position which can by no means lead to peace.

A columnist in Al Dustour discussed the situation in Iraq, following the hypothesis of a no-fly zone on its southern regions.

It is clear that the Bush administration is trying other ploys, like creating a Shiite enclave in the southern regions of Iraq, now that the no-fly zone has failed to make the Iraqi leadership budge from its position, said Fathi Najjar.

The writer said that the no-fly zone did not serve Mr. Bush in his attempt to beat his presidential rival, Bill Clinton, and certainly failed to bring about a change in the Iraqi leadership, therefore, the U.S. is now trying its hand at other ploys.

His views were echoed by Hisham Halaseh, a columnist in Al Dustour, who said that Iraq

continues to force one conspiracy after another, concocted by France, England and the U.S., and aimed at further dismembering and partitioning Iraq and the Iraqi people.

The writer said that the three Western powers' schemes are now known all and their plots against the Arabs are exposed not by their aggression on Iraq alone, but also by their continuing Iran's occupation of Arab territory in the Gulf.

By creating the so-called Shiite enclave in southern Iraq, the writer added, the Western powers are trying to cover up for their failure to topple the legitimate leadership in Baghdad.

No one can be convinced of the excuses which the Western powers are making to maintain their sanctions on Iraq or to impose the no-fly zone on its southern parts, said Hisham Uzzeinat, a columnist in Al Dustour daily.

The writer said that everyone is now convinced that the onslaught on Iraq is immoral and inhuman, characterising the so-called new world order, which is harmful to world nations.

The writer said that nations around the world, and the Arab states in particular, must have realised by now that no one is safe from the new world order's evil and the conspiracies of the Western nations.

For Abdul Rahim Omar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, the Desert

Storm has not ended yet. In light of U.S.-led conspiracies against Iraq, under the pretext of protecting the Kurds, the Shiites and the Gulf states, one can see that the Desert Storm aggression is still continuing in different forms, said the writer.

Regarding Iran's occupation of Abu Musa Island in the Gulf, Saleh Qulsh, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the Iranian regime is seeking trouble with the Arab states through hostile acts and collaboration with the Western countries against the Arab Nation's interests.

When the Iranian revolution occurred in 1979, the Arab countries and Arab masses rejoiced, hoping that the Iranians will provide support for Arab causes, but it soon turned out that the regime in Tehran was maintaining a hostile attitude against the Arabs, reinforced by the aggression on Iraq and the occupation of Abu Musa Island.

Hisham Faraneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, pointed to the U.S. and European silence regarding Iran's occupation of part of the Arab land and said that Iran and the Western countries are in collusion against the Arab states.

The writer said that the Gulf Cooperation Council states' statement on the question of Abu Musa was timid and proved the Arabs to be weak and unable to stand up against the new conspiracy due to their divisions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that it is a shame to see Arab countries voicing support for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its dispute with Iran over Abu Musa Island and failing to come to the aid of 18 million Iraqi citizens facing starvation.

Sultan Hattab said that the Arab states, represented by their Arab League, based in Cairo, approve the Western conspiracies to devastate Iraq while they declare their verbal support for the UAE claims to the Abu Musa Island.

The signatories of the Damascus Declaration — including Egypt, Syria and the Gulf states — are keeping silent about the atrocities committed by the West against Iran and they are timidly trying to come to the aid of the UAE in its demand for claims for an uninhabited island in the Gulf.

The question of contaminated agricultural produce was tackled by a number of columnists in the daily press.

Ahmed Debbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the admission that some crops were contaminated, prompting a decision for the destruction of crops grown near Khirbet Al Samra plant, clearly exposes the shortcomings of the departments concerned with water matters.

The writer said that the agricultural and health ministries are to blame for the situation and for neglecting their responsibilities ab-

out ensuring public safety and proper use of the recycled water. A columnist in Al Dustour said that by deciding to destroy the vegetables grown around the Khirbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Ministry of Agriculture is not properly dealing with the problem.

Saleh Al Qallab said that the concerned authorities should try to deal with the problem by examining the water of the Zarga River, which has proved to be the cause of the problem.

The writer said that water flowing in the Zarga River contains poisonous materials and toxic chemicals from the factories along the banks of the river. He said that while the public wants the ministry to sell good and uncontaminated crops on Arab and foreign markets, and supports the ministry's efforts, it calls on the ministry and other departments to enforce regulations about the use of recycled water coming out from the waste water plants and the factories.

Mohammed Douad, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that a decision to remove the garbage dump from Ruseifa to another area is three years old now, yet nothing has been done. The writer said that the lives of 30,000 people in the city of Ruseifa are endangered due to the pollution of the air around them. He urged the municipal and health authorities to act now and save the lives of innocent people.

Iraq's ground forces 'hunkered down' in south

ABOARD THE USS RANGER (Agencies) — The U.S. air force general commanding reconnaissance flights over southern Iraq said Friday that Iraqi troops appear spread out and trying to avoid detection.

"They are hunkered down as though they are trying to avoid being seen or trying to avoid being attacked," Lieutenant General Michael A. Nelson told reporters on his first visit to this carrier in the Gulf.

The seven ship battle group commanded by the USS Ranger, out of San Diego, California, replaced the USS Independence Thursday.

Iraq has made no apparent attempt to challenge the "no-fly" zone below the 32nd Parallel.

Baghdad has accused the U.S. of using the air exclusion zone in the south — and another established in the north to try to partition the country.

The general said intelligence reports from a variety of sources, including pilots and cameras installed on some of the aircraft, indicated little ground activity.

Iraq's early warning radar on the ground has been tracking the overflights by U.S. navy jets off

the carrier and by American, British and French planes from Saudi Arabia.

But they have never switched on the radar attached to surface-to-air missiles or anti-aircraft artillery, said Gen. Nelson.

He said the Iraqi military continued to work on a causeway through the southern marshes. It is expected to allow Iraq's 60,000 troops in the south to move heavy armor into the watery area to try to flush out rebels hiding there since their failed rebellion following last year's Gulf war.

Gen. Nelson, who is based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said he could not confirm reports from exile Iraqi opposition groups that the Iraqi military was shelling positions in the marshes.

"I have to say we haven't seen those ourselves, but that doesn't mean they aren't happening," he said.

Pilots on the carrier said that they have to be overhead at the time of a battle to register low-level ground activity, and recent murky weather conditions mean they can pretty much only see straight down.

"There is not a lot of activity on the ground. Even on the ma-

for highways it's very deserted and desolate," said Captain Donald Brown, the 44-year-old commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing Two, which has over 70 aircraft on board.

"There are some fires in the marshes area. They are not spectacular, but very small white smoke plumes," added Capt. Brown.

Opposition groups also have charged that Iraq forces have burned houses and set fire to marshes to try to drive rebels out. The allegations have not been independently confirmed.

The U.S. navy started with more than 100 sorties per day, with a like number flown by U.S., British and French air force pilots based in Saudi Arabia. That dropped to 40 to 60 per day after Baghdad did not challenge the zone.

Iraqi air force training flights continue above the 32nd Parallel.

President Saddam Hussein has offered a general amnesty to army deserters in and around Iraq's northern oil-city of Kirkuk.

Baghdad Television reported Defence Minister General Ali Hassan Al Majid as telling a gathering of the city's tribal lead-

ers and notables that the offer covering Ta'meen province would be valid for two weeks.

"The president's decision is to give those covered the chance to take part in the march of reconstruction and defend the country," the television quoted Gen. Majid as saying.

Part of Ta'meen province, which has Kirkuk as its capital, is in the hands of Kurdish rebels but the province is outside the "no-fly" zone set up north of the 36th Parallel by the Gulf war allies.

Autonomy talks between Baghdad and Kurdish rebels collapsed last year over who should control the city and its oil wealth.

The amnesty is the second in less than two weeks. On Sept. 6, the ruling Revolution Command Council (RCC) offered pardons to deserters in the provinces of Basra, the "no-fly" zone in the south.

Iraq says more than 3,000 deserters have surrendered in the three provinces.

Gen. Majid said army deserters from Kirkuk should give themselves up to "the army training centres in the province prior to their transfer to their original units."

U.S. partially halts Somali airlift after bullet hits plane

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The United States Friday temporarily suspended its airlift of food to the western Somali town of Belet Hoen after one of its cargo planes was struck by a bullet.

The Americans did not know the source of the bullet that struck their C-130, but said it hit the airplane's right rear near the tail at about 8 a.m. (0500 GMT).

None of the six flight crew members, six ground crew and three Red Cross workers who travelled to Belet Hoen on the plane was injured, said spokesman Marine Warrant Officer Hartman Slate.

He said there was no apparent gunfire on or near the airstrip, but that the security situation on the ground deteriorated as the plane was being unloaded.

"The crew reported seeing a lot of people, a lot of guns, a lot of chaos," Officer Slate said by telephone from Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa, the base of the U.S.

relief operation. "They just wanted to get the plane unloaded and get out."

Three armed factions in Somalia have agreed to join efforts to form a national government based on democracy and respect for human rights, a spokesman for the groups said Friday.

The United Somali Congress (USC), the Somali National Front (SNF) and the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) reached the agreement at a five-day conference at Garba Harey in central Somalia, the spokesman told Reuters in Nairobi.

A statement after the meeting said they agreed on an immediate ceasefire throughout Somalia, to open the way for a national conference on peace and reconciliation "as soon as possible."

The groups attacked the Somali National Alliance (SNA), accusing it of looting international relief aid destined for millions of starving people in Somalia.

Government cautions journalists

(Continued from page 1)
The editor, signed by the chairman of the committee, Dr. Ismael Al Khazri.

Security forces last month arrested the two Islamist deputies, Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, saying the authority will try them for illegal weapons possession and links to what official sources said was a foreign-based group.

The detention of the two deputies drew conflicting views from analysts, observers, their supporters and political opponents.

In particular, supporters of Deputy Shbeilat said they believed the motives behind his arrest were political, which other observers said the government would not take a risk of arresting a well-known and respected deputy without solid evidence against him.

Media observers believe that the majority of comments and reports on the arrest of Mr. Shbeilat favoured his arrest and took a personal tone against him. However, other observers believed that the occasion of his arrest was used to self-unfolded information which could influence the proceedings of the case.

The government had privately asked the newspaper editors to verify facts before publishing any information on the case and there seemed to be agreement to stick to balanced and accurate reports on the case before the minister's letter was sent to editors last week.

The government was mostly rattled about a series of columns in daily newspapers prejudging the outcome of the case based on speculation and not facts, officials and observers told the Jordan Times.

But despite the government's apparent sensitivity towards a public discussion of the case, the senior government official said that it cannot ban newspapers from reporting on the case, especially if the reports carried verified facts and were not based on speculation.

"Newspapers have to consult their lawyers since the government cannot do more than apply the law," the official, who asked for anonymity, told the Jordan Times.

But he conceded that the government was initially unsettled by the "wild treatment of the subject," and had asked the newspapers to stick to the facts.

"We (in Jordan) do not really have a tradition to follow in these cases, the official said, adding that a general guideline could be to maintain a balance between the interests of the parties to a court case, the prosecution and defendants, by reporting the facts and avoiding speculation. Then "there really should be no problem," said the official.

The information minister in his letter to the editors, quoted articles from the 1959 courts law and not from the Press and Publications Law which might be expected to govern this kind of case and its coverage in the press.

The senior officials who spoke to the Jordan Times said he understood the dilemma of the newspapers because they are working in the absence of a new Press and Publications Law. The old Press and Publications Law has been suspended by recent successive governments since it is widely agreed that it is not exactly democratic. The new law was being debated by Parliament in its extraordinary summer session.

Regardless of the different laws on reporting court cases, the senior official said, he believed that "democratically, one cannot ignore the issue" of two deputies being held in custody in a case that is obviously of immense concern to the public.

"In fact, in my opinion, when action is taken against a deputy you are required to closely follow his case, if we are to judge by democratic rules," he said. "But then, the law of the land has to be observed, no matter how old or outdated, and the best solution is for editors to consult their lawyers when covering this case."

Israel 'accepts'

(Continued from page 1)
Palestinians from the diaspora to attend these two categories of the multilateral talks is some great concession."

The Israelis base their argument against the participation of Palestinians from outside the West Bank and Gaza on the terms of reference agreed on prior to the launching of the Arab-Israeli peace process in October last year.

During the opening session of the multilateral talks in January in Moscow, the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace process, agreed that two of the five multilateral committees could include Palestinians from the diaspora.

At the time Palestinians from East Jerusalem and PLO members were specifically excluded at the request of Israel, on the grounds that Jerusalem is "non-negotiable Israeli territory" and that the PLO, despite its official recognition of Israel, is bent on the destruction of the Zionist state.

"Israel is agreeing to something already agreed upon by the co-sponsors last February," pointed out a member of the Palestinian steering committee for the multilaterals.

According to the negotiators, the Israelis are worried about the application of Resolution 194, which clearly gives the refugees a choice between compensation or return.

"The Israelis are saying that it could also be interpreted to mean that it is up to Israel if the refugees get compensated or are allowed to return," said the negotiator.

Israel says it fears the dilution of the Israeli image as a predominantly Jewish state if non-Jews are allowed to return. The issue of the return of Palestinian refugees is one of the most sensitive to the Israelis, the Palestinian negotiators say.

"The entry of Israel into the U.N. some 40 years ago hinged on its recognition of two U.N. resolutions: One of them was Resolution 181 — the partition of Palestine — and the other was 194," said one Palestinian negotiator.

Talks reach impasse

(Continued from page 1)
The U.S.-sponsored peace talks are scheduled to resume on Monday.

The ultra-religious Shas Party expressed support for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, guaranteeing Mr. Rabin a parliamentary majority for any such decision.

Shas leader Aryeh Deri said his party's spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, fully backed Mr. Rabin in his negotiations with the Syrians even if it meant giving up parts of the Golan.

The commitment of Shas's six legislators means that Mr. Rabin has the full backing of his 62-seat coalition in the 120-seat parliament for "territorial concessions." He also has the support of an additional five left-wing and Arab legislators who are not part of the coalition.

Mr. Deri told Israel Television that Rabbi Yosef made his decision because "the holiness of man, according to Jewish religious law, is the highest value," as opposed to the holiness of territory included in the "Biblical land of Israel."

"What if future generations look back at us and see we gave up this chance to make peace and to save tens of thousands of lives," he said, "just because we were overly suspicious?"

Mr. Rabin's predecessor as prime minister, Likud Party leader Yitzhak Shamir, told Israel Television that Israel was "abandoning the Golan."

He said that there was no change in Syria's stance despite Mr. Rabin's stated readiness to give up part of the Golan.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday urged Arab countries to form a Middle East free trade zone with Israel and open up their borders to commerce with the Jewish state.

"If you want to have a better Middle East you must have a sort of common market, or what you call in the United States a free trade zone," Mr. Peres said. He was speaking to a group of American contributors to the United Jewish Appeal.

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Jordanian athletes return from Syria

AMMAN (Agencies) — Thousands of Jordanians greeted the Kingdom's delegation to the seventh Pan-Arab Games in Syria upon their arrival at Al Ramtha Thursday.

The athletes were welcomed back home by Minister of Youth Salih Irsheidat. Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabari, Minister of Public Works Sa'ad Al Surour, the governor of Irbid, and other officials.

Dr. Irsheidat expressed his pride in the athletes and conveyed to them the best wishes of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to each and every participant.

The minister said everyone was happy with the Jordanian athletes' results, especially the basketball team who really showed they

deserved the gold medal but settled for second place after biased refereeing.

The minister said the Crown Prince would meet the delegation in the coming days.

Meanwhile, Syrian boxers won five out of six gold medals at the Pan-Arab Games Thursday to crown the host country's dominance of a two-week event closing Friday.

Syria now has 47 gold and 63 other medals, ahead of Egypt in second place with 33 golds and Algeria third with 26.

Khaled Kalliah won the first of the five Syrian golds in the 51 kg class, beating Egypt's Mustafa Hassan in front of 5,000 people at the Jalaa Sports Stadium in Damascus. Ahmed Al-Zai of Tunisia and Alaa Yousef of

Algeria shared the bronze.

In the 57 kg class, Hussein Sultani of Algeria, one of the few Arabs to win a medal at the Olympic Games in Barcelona this year, dropped out of the final after he broke his nose during practice.

That gave a bye to Syria's Hussein Osman to take gold and the two bronzes went to Sudan's John Machel Maron and Egypt's Mahdi Farid.

The only fight Syria lost Thursday was in the 63.5 kg class, where Bonab Saeed of Algeria beat Ahmed Mayaz Khanji, gold medalist at the Mediterranean Games in Athens.

Khanji got the silver and the bronzes were shared by Yasser Hamad of Palestine and Mohammed Ashish of Jordan.

Syria's Ghayath Tayfour took first place in the 71 kg class final against Mohammed Al-Aswad of Tunisia. The bronzes went to Fadiel Mohammed Ali of Kuwait and Algeria's Mohammed Ali Borowi.

Syria's Ihab Yousef won gold in the 81 kg class gold when the referee stopped his fight with Tunisia's Lutfi Al-Misawi at the start of the third round. Ahmed Mohammed Abdul-Latif of Egypt and Tarik Siriah of Palestine took third place.

In the over 91 kg class the winner was Syria's Ahmed Abideen, who boxes in the United States, followed by Egypt's Ihab Abdul-Baset with silver. Anwar Murad of Palestine and Ali Mohammed Ali of Kuwait took the bronzes.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Gullit will not play for Dutch side

ROTTERDAM (R) — Captain Ruud Gullit will not play for the Netherlands in their opening World Cup group two qualifying match against Norway in Oslo next Wednesday. The AC Milan star asked to be left out of the squad for personal reasons and Dutch coach Dick Advocaat has picked winger Gaston Taument of Feyenoord in his place. Gullit's AC Milan teammates Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard were included in the 16-man squad. Ajax Amsterdam defender Sonny Silooy returns to the squad for the first time since January 1989, replacing PSV Eindhoven's Berry Van Aarle, who has a torn muscle. Squad — Stanley Menzo, Ed De Goey, Sonny Silooy, Danny Blind, Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard, Frank De Boer, Rob Witschge, Arthur Numan, Jan Wouters, Aron Winter, Dennis Bergkamp, Gaston Taument, Wim Kieft, Marco Van Basten, John Van 't Schip.

Jahangir to make comeback in S. Africa

LONDON (R) — Jahangir Khan has warned opponents not to write him off when he makes his comeback after a long injury layoff at next week's World Squash Open in Johannesburg. The 26-year-old Pakistani, who recorded the last of his six world title victories in 1988, has been away from the circuit virtually all year since suffering a back injury. His only tournament appearance was in the Spanish Open in Madrid in March and that lasted just one game before he was forced to withdraw because of the injury in his first round match. The Open begins Monday, September 21. Jahangir has slumped from top place to number five, his lowest ranking in 12 years, while his compatriot and great rival Jansher Khan has dominated the circuit. But now Jahangir pronounces himself fully fit. He has been playing in a series of exhibition matches in South Africa and says: "I think I will surprise the people who have written me off. I am fit and confident and perhaps the rest has done me good." And his rivals will recall that once before the Pakistani made the doubters eat their words. He was away from the circuit for five months after suffering extreme mental and physical exhaustion in 1989, but then returned to such good effect that he regained his top ranking, won a record 10th British Open and reached the World Open final. The withdrawal through injury of third seed Chris Robertson from Brisbane has lifted the Pakistani to fourth seed and eases his path to the semifinals. But then comes the prospect of a clash with top seed Jansher and the real test of whether Jahangir can return to the forefront of the sport.

Budd, Decker to meet in mile race

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Mary Decker-Slaney of the United States will race South Africa's Zola Budd-Pieterse Oct. 16 in the Sydney Mile, the first meeting between the two in a major international event since the 1984 Olympics. In the 3,000 metres at Los Angeles, Decker-Slaney, the gold medal favorite, fell to the ground after colliding with the bare-footed Budd-Pieterse in the most sensational incident of the games. Political and economic sanctions against South Africa have prevented the two from meeting since. Decker-Slaney is the Sydney Mile defending champion, winning last year's race in 4 minutes, 24.4 seconds. "We have been working on the rematch for a couple of years and we couldn't quite get it together for last year," race promoter Damien Stenmark said Thursday. "Budd-Pieterse is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to race Decker-Slaney again." World mile record-holder Steve Cram of Britain, who won last year's Sydney mile in 3:57, will return to defend his men's title. The race, offering total prize money of \$75,000 and sponsored by Diet Coke, is run down George Street, Sydney's main thoroughfare, to the circular quay area of the city.

Drechsler refuses to help out Germans

BONN (R) — Olympic long jump champion Heike Drechsler has refused to come to the rescue of a weakened German women's team and compete in the sprint events at the World Cup in Havana next week. The former East German, bronze medalist in the 100 and 200 metres at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, said Friday she would not accept her selection for the sprint events or the relay and was only available in the long jump. "She wants to finish the season with a winning long jump performance and not ruin her reputation as a sprinter by finishing third or fourth," her coach and father-in-law Erich Drechsler said. "But in 1993 it will be different. Because of the way the programme works we are thinking about her running the 200 at the World Championships in Stuttgart." The German women won the European Cup in Frankfurt last year to qualify for the Havana team event on September 25-27. But their team has been weakened by withdrawals and the recent doping ban on double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe. Sprinter Silke Knoll is unable to compete because of a leg muscle injury. Olympic high jump champion Heike Henkel and Barcelona javelin gold and bronze medalists Silke Renk and Karen Forkel are also not available.

Ailing Spassky gets postponement

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia (R) — Former world chess champion Boris Spassky, suffering from insomnia and high blood pressure, Thursday was granted a postponement of the 10th game scheduled between him and Bobby Fischer in their comeback tournament. Organisers of the \$5 million replay series played in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan agreed to the postponement after hearing from Spassky's doctors that his psychological and physical condition had deteriorated. Spassky, 55, is apparently suffering from prostate gland trouble shattering his concentration before and during the match, causing him to make some grave errors. The Russian-born Spassky, who lost his crown to Fischer in an epic clash in Iceland in 1972, was pale and bathed in sweat at the end of the 9th game Wednesday. He lost that game in only 21 moves after a blunder that left his king hopelessly exposed to attack by Fischer's minor pieces. During the seventh game he left his seat as many as 27 times because of his prostate complaint.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
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THRUST NOT PARRIED

East-West vulnerable. South spades, and South pressed on to slam, little suspecting that half of North's assets were in the enemy suit and, therefore, not working. In light of partner's vulnerable, two-level overall, we can't blame East for thinking Christmas had come a month early.

Declareruffed the opening lead and made his first correct assumption, based on the overall, by running the jack of clubs at trick two. A club to the ace put declarer in dummy for a heart discard on the king of diamonds. Next came the jack of trumps, and East's queen was belated by the ace.

One of dummy's hearts was discarded on the king of clubs, and declarer exited with the eight of spades. In with the nine, East returned the king of hearts to South's ace. A heart ruff put declarer in dummy to lead a trump, and the marked finesse of the seven of spades was taken. After drawing the last trump, declarer was left with two good clubs for the 11th and 12th tricks.

Now look what would have happened had East, when in with the nine of trumps, returned a spade. Declarer would not be able to ruff a heart and return to hand to draw the last trump, and East's double would have been justified.

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ 2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣
There is a particularly satisfying feeling when you place every card correctly to land an ambitious contract. Robert Barr of Andover, Mass., did just that in the Board-A-Match Team Championship at the recent Fall North American Championships in Indianapolis last November.

West's two-diamond overall was a bit thin by our standards. North's three-diamond cue-bid showed a limit raise or better in support of

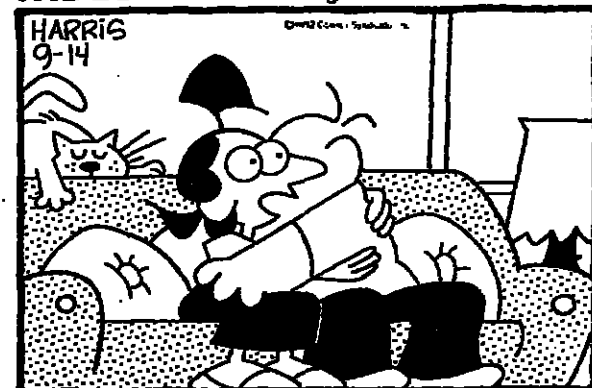


Princess Haya wins bronze

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Thursday won the bronze medal in the equestrian competition at the seventh Pan-Arab Games in Syria. The medal was the first for Jordan in the equestrian competition in which 35 competitors representing six Arab countries took part.

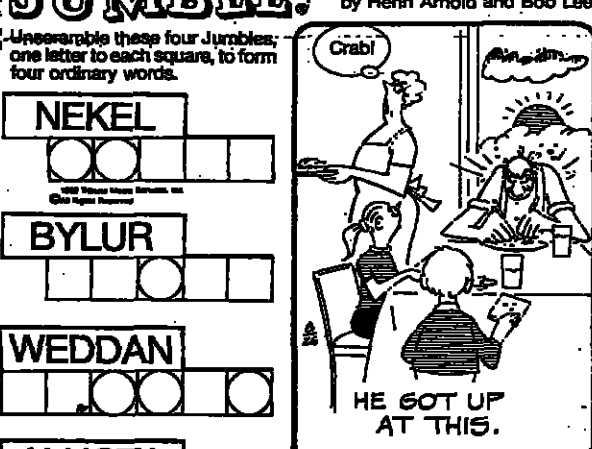
HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"Stanley, are you whispering sweet nothings in my ear...or is that snoring?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

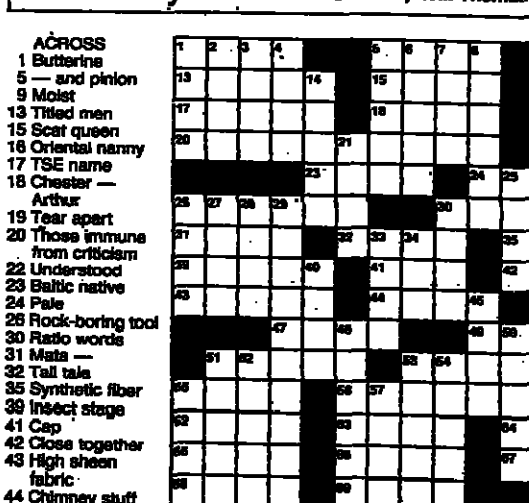


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE "O O O O O O" OF (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: OPERA CHAMP TREATY BAUBLE
Answer: He must have been the most important member of the vampire team — THE "BAT" BOY

THE Daily Crossword by Will Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



33 Editor's mark
34 City on the Rhine
35 Dingo
36 Son of Jacob
37 Old law, country
38 Isle of exile
39 Cornelia
40 Skimmer
41 No in Greek

النظم الفنية

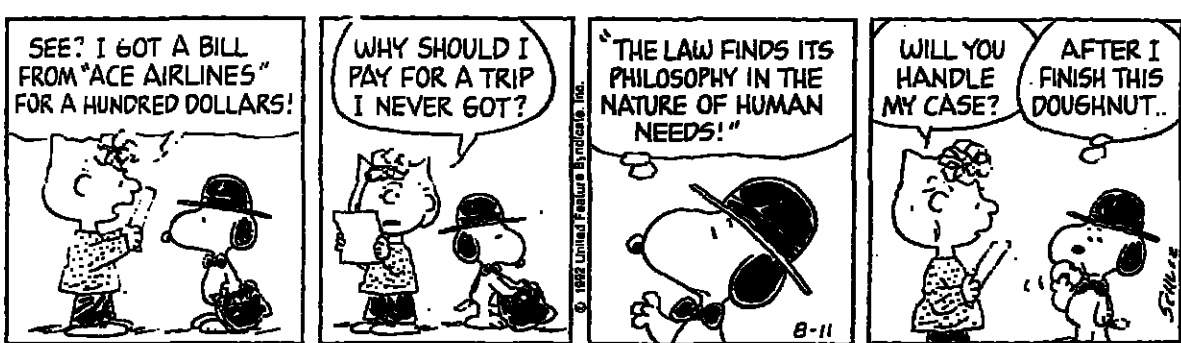
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.7855	1.7505
Deutsche Mark	1.5104	1.5090
Swiss Franc	1.3200	1.3170
French Franc	5.1493	5.2087**
Japanese Yen	125.10	124.78
European Currency Unit	1.2980	1.2735**

USD Per STG
European Opening in 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for immediate settlement (U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent)

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.25
Sterling Pound	12.50	15.00	12.00	15.76
Deutsche Mark	8.25	8.50	8.50	8.50
Swiss Franc	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
French Franc	9.87	9.87	9.87	9.63
Japanese Yen	4.25	3.95	3.81	3.85
European Currency Unit	12.88	11.62	11.25	10.62

Interbank bid rates for immediate settlement (U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent)

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	351.80	6.40	Silver	3.87	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.679	0.681
Sterling Pound	1.7975	1.7935
Deutsche Mark	0.4490	0.4512
Swiss Franc	0.5168	0.5192
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.5438	0.5465
Dutch Guilder	0.4011	0.4031
Swedish Krona	0.1237	0.1243
Italian Lira	0.0538	0.0541
Belgian Franc	0.02176	0.02182

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7720	1.7840
Lebanese Lira	0.2850	0.30950
Saudi Riyal	0.1808	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.7840	0.7850
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7310	1.7430
UAE Dirham	0.1840	0.1850
Swedish Krona	0.3750	0.3950
Cypriot Pound	1.5050	1.5250

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/9/92	Close	16/9/92	Close
All-Share	146.01		145.01	
Banking Sector	107.83		107.56	
Insurance Sector	151.57		151.75	
Industry Sector	196.87		195.82	
Services Sector	204.63		208.16	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7500/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2145/50	Canadian dollar
	1.5015/25	Deutschmarks
	1.6900/30	Dutch guilders
	1.3010/40	Swiss francs
	30.90/1.10	Belgian francs
	1.1300/450	French francs
	1245/1275	Italian lira
	124.54/59	Japanese yen
	5.5900/6300	Swedish crowns
	6.0600/1000	Norwegian crowns
	5.8300/700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	347.80/348.30	U.S. dollars

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
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CREATED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/09/1992 - 16/09/1992)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	79,382	2,350	3,000 3,070
JORDAN PUBLIC BANK	319,010	2,220	2,240 2,310
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	414,806	2,250	2,420 2,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,943	2,250	2,150 2,190
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	35,705	2,250	2,250 2,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	62,042	2,270	2,270 2,710
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	798,532	3,140	3,120 3,380
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	22,376	3,400	3,400 3,500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	312,632	1,260	1,260 1,250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,001,495	1,900	1,900 1,980
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	240,917	2,250	2,300 2,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	20,372	2,070	2,150 2,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	316,433	4,570	4,600 4,660
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	83,012	17,950	17,900 17,650
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,371	14,500	14,600 14,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	214,400	115,000	115,000 115,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	141,800	2,400	2,200 2,280
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,604	3,100	3,120 3,200
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	25,468	2,650	2,670 2,700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	53	1,050	1,060 1,060
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	150	3,050	3,000 3,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	316,718	2,300	2,300 2,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	114	4,570	4,570 4,570
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	29,668	1,540	1,540 1,700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,428	2,300	1,420 1,500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	871	1,890	1,890 1,940
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	225	3,300	2,700 2,300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	35	1,900	1,900 1,900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	6,406	2,000	2,000 2,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	5,183	2,260	2,260 2,270
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	781,280	4,940	5,000 5,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	103,515	1,260	1,300 1,220
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,000	0,640	0,640 0,670
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	10,000	5,400	5,400 5,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	4,320	2,400	2,400 2,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	15,750	6,840	7,000 7,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,842,310	2,720	2,860 2,820
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	10,693	0,240	0,240 0,250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	128,435	1,000	1,000 1,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	593,165	1,100	1,120 1,210
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,041,489	0,810	0,820 0,910
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	10,021	1,150	1,140 1,130
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	52,628	1,470	1,500 1,480
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	175,649	2,510	2,510 2,510
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	219,120	7,460	7,500 7,560
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	312,274	2,840	2,670 2,700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	207,851	5,800	5,810 5,870
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	27,328	21,400	21,500 21,600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,208,400	5,600	5,600 5,600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,242,044	7,620	7,620 8,270
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	208,431	6,600	6,600 6,570
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	208,408	9,600	9,600 9,750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	131,545	5,600	5,700 5,700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	212,236	0,680	0,680 0,760
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	173,090	5,600	5,000 5,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	55,921	3,950	3,950 3,800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	280,520	2,800	2,800 2,840
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	255,009	3,100	3,180 3,220
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	668,032	0,470	0,490 0,730
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	133,094	6,000	4,740 4,550
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	84,950	3,350	3,200 3,200
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	5,270	3,350	3,400 3,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	26,423	3,350	3,340 3,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	108,148	1,770	1,800 1,840
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	65,523	1,070	1,050 1,120
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	172,609	2,840	2,870 2,990
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	207,851	2,400	2,400 2,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	223,069	6,200	6,200 6,270
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	239,632	2,610	2,610 2,610
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	154,532	1,310	1,300 1,320
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	15,986	1,600	1,650 1,620
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	70,827	0,470	0,470 0,460
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	529,320	4,740	4,750 4,860
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,948,065	2,260	2,230 2,210
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	61,214	0,840	0,840 0,820
GRAND TOTAL	22,515,025		

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/09/1992 - 16/09/1992)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	63,826	1,100	1,160 1,410
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	216,290	2,850	2,880 2,360
GRAND TOTAL	280,116		

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/09/1992 - 16/09/1992)

WEEKLY REPORT

ROME (R) — Italy's Prime Minister Giuliano Amato unveiled a 93 trillion lire (\$75 billion) austerity package on Thursday and said the government's fate depended on it.

The roughly equal mix of spending cuts and new taxes for 1993 is aimed at reining in Italy's huge budget deficit and restoring faith in the badly bruised lira.

"The government's life depends on this budget," he told reporters. "On it hangs the recovery of credibility in our currency which I expect in the next few days."

The remark was a clear warning to lawmakers not to tamper with the package when it begins its long passage through parliament next month, analysts said.

The 1993 finance bill is aimed at making inroads into the huge budget deficit which has played an important part in dragging down the lira.

"We have been living beyond our means for 20 years," said Budget Minister Franco Reviglio. "For the first time we are really attacking the cause of the deficit."

The package cuts spending in areas of health, social services and public wages, keeping the overall net expenditure level next year down to that of 1992.

New taxes include a levy on companies' assets and luxury items to accompany one-off income tax supplements, real-estate tariffs and a clampdown on evasion already announced.

Mr. Amato said the budget deficit next year will fall slightly to 140 trillion lire (\$13 billion) from the expected 150 trillion (\$121 billion) in 1992.

Iran to let demand set oil output

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh said his nation will go it alone in the oil market, letting production rise with market demand, Tehran Radio reported Friday.

The Iranian decision followed Ecuador's announcement it was quitting the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the first country ever to do so.

Combined, the two decisions by Ecuador and Iran put the decades-old international oil group under severe strain.

The radio statement, monitored by the British Petroleum Corp., quoted Mr. Azadeh as saying his nation rejected the OPEC deal agreed the day before in Geneva and would regulate its production according to the market.

In a later section of monitored broadcast, the radio said Mr. Azadeh made the comments at a news conference in Geneva Thursday night.

At the news conference, attended by journalists from the Associated Press and other major news organizations, Mr. Azadeh told reporters that Iran did not intend to flood the market with oil.

Tehran radio did not report that statement, an important one because it qualified his announcement that Iran would raise production to accord with demand.

Without the qualifier, the report implied Iran might raise production levels to whatever the market requires, dealing a severe blow to OPEC's efforts to maintain steady prices.

It was not clear whether this was a deliberate or an inadvertent omission by Tehran radio.

Iran has recently raised its production capacity and thus is technically capable of raising its output.

The OPEC ministers had hoped that Thursday's accord would push prices up a dollar or two a barrel by year's end.

An OPEC market was \$19.64 a barrel earlier this year. According to OPEC's calculations, inflation and the tumbling dollar have slipped about \$3 a barrel off the recent value of oil. Oil is priced in dollars.

The final accord made no mention of an oil output ceiling. Instead, it said the group decided "the market share" for the fourth quarter of the year would be 24.2 million barrels a day.

Setting a firm ceiling apparently would have forced the ministers to divvy up the production among the nations. Such a discussion would no doubt have sparked a fight between rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran over which country should get what.

Deputy Fuel and Energy Minister Vladimir Kolesnikov told ITAR-TASS news agency that his specialists forecast producers would raise their prices to around 5,200 roubles (\$25) a tonne.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree said producers charging more than the new ceiling price would face punitive taxes. Interfax News Agency said profits of oil producing enterprises would be limited to between 10 and 20 per cent of production costs.

"It's hard to say exactly how this will work because we are waiting for a (government) resolution determining exactly how this will be put into action," said Alexander Degterev, information chief at the fuel and energy ministry.

Mr. Degterev, speaking by telephone from his office, said he expected the resolution to be finalized next week.

The government issued an official commentary late Thursday night saying the decree was aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the oil-producing industry.

Russian oil production of 460 million tonnes in 1991 is expected to drop to 395 million tonnes in 1992. A decade ago, it topped 600 million tonnes.

Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar last week said production, crippled by chronic under-investment, would fall a further 50 million tonnes in 1993.

A government economic advisor Thursday said the oil price rises could push up general prices by 20 to 25 per cent.

The government said the rises would be gradual to soften the blow on a population already struggling to survive massive inflation since prices were freed in January as part of the government's radical economic reform plan.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree was accompanied by instructions for the government to grant subsidies for household heating, transport and essential agricultural production. The government commentary said help would be given to farmers.

"In order to hold down price rises for food, the Russian government has been told to increase subsidies for agriculture so as to partially compensate for the growth of the cost of diesel fuel," it said.

Mr. Degterev said ministers had proposed setting aside 40 billion roubles (\$195 million) worth of credits to help hard-pressed sections of the population.

Rail, sea and river transport fares are to be increased by 50 per cent, but air fares within Russia will remain stable.

An official at the aviation ministry said fares for flights to the independent Baltic states of Estonia and Lithuania would triple.

The price of coal will rise by around 30 per cent but the cost of gas and electricity will be virtually unchanged.

Russia, which used to be the world's biggest oil producer until the slump in production levels hit crisis point, plans to bring energy prices into line with world levels by late 1993.

Jordanians consume 4b cigarettes a year

New cigarette company attracts 24,000 investors

This second and last part of the report on the tobacco industry attempts to find out whether the new cigarette company will be able to meet the smokers' and importers' demand for quality

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Realizing that Jordanian cigarettes have failed to quench smokers' thirst for the "right nicotine", two institutions have ignited solutions to solve a package of problems.

The first solution was adopted by Jordanian customs officers by cracking down on unauthorized imports of foreign cigarettes and the illegal routes some smokers take to "come to Marlboro country."

The second solution was brought forward by the newly-established International Tobacco and Cigarette Company (ITCC) which aims to persuade Jordanian smokers in a more gentle way to snuff foreign cigarettes by simply putting better quality products on the market.

ITCC general manager Talat Marie told the Jordan Times the company plans to start production early next year and that in the first year of operation only foreign tobacco will be used to introduce two new types of cigarettes.

Mr. Marie said the two brands have not yet been named but one of them would be American blend (like Marlboro) and the other British blend (like Rothmans). He added that ITCC would continue to manufacture "the foreign tobacco" cigarettes indefinitely and that new brands containing a certain percentage of local tobacco would be launched by the end of 1993 or early 1994.

Mr. Marie revealed that the local tobacco would undergo several stages of "improvement processing" before it is mixed with a certain percentage of foreign tobacco to ensure a better quality and a higher standard for Jordanian cigarettes.

The ITCC general manager explained that the government does not impose a fixed percentage of local tobacco content or interfere in the production process of cigarettes, except to measure the local input for production duty.

Noting that Jordanian tobacco growers receive government subsidy and local tobacco has no customs, Mr. Marie said that the more local tobacco is used in cigarettes the less costly they are. Therefore, the government earns less revenue.

He elaborated that due to high customs, ranging between JD 0.550 and JD 0.650 on each JD 1 worth of foreign tobacco, local cigarettes now contain a considerable level of local tobacco, grown on approximately 29,000 dunums of land.

Mr. Marie declined to specify the percentage of local tobacco that ITCC would be using because the input would first be treated for "quality improvement" and, secondly, because each brand would then be subject to competition and price considerations. He pointed out that government fees, taxes, customs, duties and various other financial charges eat up about 85 per cent of the sale price of a pack of cigarettes.

ITCC, which was launched June 7, 1992 by 55 founding members, groups Mr. Marie and some relatives along with Bank of Jordan and a number of its shareholders as main investors for a total of JD 3,750,000 or 75 per cent of the registered capital.

The remaining 25 per cent or JD 1,250,000 equity was grabbed by some 24,000 investors who subscribed in the publically-floated shares, according to Mr. Marie.

Serbs pound Sarajevo ahead of Geneva talks

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb gunners pounded Croat and Muslim suburbs of Sarajevo Friday as leaders of Bosnia's warring communities prepared to start peace talks in Geneva.

Sarajevo Radio said shells hit the Stup district, which is Croat-controlled, and the Muslim quarter of Hrasno.

It quoted the Bosnian army as saying the Muslim suburb of Dobrinja was attacked with multiple rocket launchers during the night but gave no details of casualties.

The fighting forced a convoy of buses carrying 1,500 women and children, most of them Serbs, to postpone for the third time plans to leave Sarajevo.

Elsewhere in the former Yugoslav Republic, attacks were reported on the Muslim-held towns of Gorazde, Brcko, Bihać and Gradacac.

Shelling and street fighting in the capital lasted Thursday until midnight in what the radio called Sarajevo's "worst day of hell".

Artillery pounded the central Stari Grad and Centar districts, the Novo Sarajevo area, Novi Grad, Dobrinja and Vogosca to the north.

Muslim forces launched fresh attacks to try to break out towards Serb-held Dridza to the southwest.

"They've been on the offensive for a week. They're losing many men. The Serbs are losing men too, but not at such a rate," said a Western military source.

Bosnian radio said Bosnian government forces halted a strong Serb offensive with more than 20 tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the Western district of Stup.

In Geneva, international mediators began a fresh attempt Friday to negotiate peace in Bosnia but failed to get the leaders of the warring factions round one table.

The United Nations and European Community mediators instead scheduled separate meetings with leaders of Bosnia's Muslim, Serb and Croat communities, amid dwindling hopes that they could end five months of fighting in the former Yugoslav republic.

"They are going into the bilateral discussions this morning with more determination than optimism," spokesman Fred Eckhardt told reporters.

Diplomats in Geneva said they understood Bosnia's Muslim Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic was refusing to sit down with Serb chief Radoslav Karadzic at a time when Serb gunners are pounding Sarajevo and other Bosnian cities.

"They are saying they will not go into the same room with a war criminal," one informed diplomat said.

Earlier, officials had indicated they were expecting the Bosnian leaders to hold direct negotiations.

Mr. Eckhardt said that after the three mediators held separate preliminary talks Thursday evening with the Serb and Muslim leaders, "the impression that (they) had was that it will not be easy to bring these parties together round the same table."

"The chances of that happening are quite slim."

Hosts for the talks were Lord Owen for the EC, Cyrus Vance for the U.N. and Martti Ahtisaari, a Finnish diplomat dealing specifically with the Bosnian crisis under an international Yugoslav peace process set up by a London conference last month.

The three men met first with Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and then Mr. Karadzic.

Mr. Silajdzic delayed his meeting until later in the day to wait for fellow Muslim officials who were travelling from Sarajevo to Geneva via the Adriatic port of Split.

None of the participants made any statement to journalists as they entered the talks at Geneva's Palais Des Nations, European headquarters of the United Nations.

A key issue in the peace talks has been the future constitution of Bosnia, with the Serbs pressing for three separate states and the Muslims demanding a single country.

On the eve of the talks, Mr. Karadzic said his delegation would make no more concessions because of fears that the numerically superior but less heavily armed Muslim and Croat forces could gain ground.

But Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, told Sarajevo Television his negotiating team would actively take part in the talks only if the Serbs complied with previous commitments.

In an apparent olive branch from the mediators to the Muslims, Mr. Eckhardt said Thursday they would drop proposals for a confederal solution for Bosnia — implying division into ethnic regions — and the talks would start "with a clean slate."

In Belgrade Prime Minister Milan Panic won approval by a top Yugoslav body for his plan to seek U.N. membership for rump Yugoslavia as a new state but was



Ethnic Serbian fighters put down their arms and relax during a break in the fighting in Bosnia

seen as hastening towards a political showdown with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

A senior government source told Reuters that although the Supreme State Council comprising presidents of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro and the chief

of the armed forces had approved Mr. Panic's plan, Mr. Milosevic was "dead set" against it.

Asked whether Mr. Milosevic would contest Mr. Panic's initiative, the source replied: "It seems inevitable now, obviously there will be a showdown."

De Klerk blames ANC for violence in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African President F.W. De Klerk launched a biting attack on the African National Congress (ANC) Friday, accusing it of provoking the bloodshed racking the country.

But he said plans were progressing for a summit meeting with ANC leader Nelson Mandela to find ways to halt the turmoil, in which 2,500 blacks have died this year alone.

De Klerk's attack on the ANC, in a keynote speech to the hard-line Transvaal Provincial Congress of his National Party, contrasted with conciliatory statements by Mr. Mandela earlier this week that the ANC could soon resume democracy talks it quit in June in protest at township violence.

The president said the government had done what it could to stop the violence tearing the country apart. He accused the ANC and its allies of not cooperating.

"It is not the nationalists who assault, intimidate and murder political opponents — it is the supporters of other parties such as the ANC," he said.

"We have done what was needed to bring an end to violence — and we have done it continuously in a constructive and positive manner."

Mr. De Klerk last week urged Mr. Mandela to meet him to discuss the violence, saying constitutional talks could not proceed against a backdrop of events such as the Sept. 7 killing of 28 ANC supporters by Ciskei homeland troops.

Mr. Mandela agreed tentatively but said the government had to accept certain conditions such as fencing in migrant hostels where violence has raged, freeing political prisoners and banning the public display of dangerous weapons.

Negotiators from both sides have been setting the ground-work for the summit and Mr. De Klerk said: "According to interim feedback to me, progress is being made."

The government's chief negotiator, Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer, said an announcement would be made soon regarding the Mandela-De Klerk summit.

Talking to reporters at the National Party congress, Mr. Meyer said that in addition to the ANC's three demands, the government had added its concerns over the ANC's mass action campaign and what he called its intolerance towards political opponents.

He said the government was prepared to address the ANC's concerns but was not ready to accept them as preconditions for negotiations.

The ANC has accused the white-led security forces of complicity in political violence which has killed 2,500 blacks so far this year.

But Mr. De Klerk said the forces had been strengthened, re-organised and made more effective.

Meanwhile, African National Congress (ANC) supporters maintained a night-long candlelit vigil outside South Africa's embassy to Ciskei.

Ghali decries finances, wants human rights action

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali decried the \$1.7 billion debt to the United Nations and encouraged the Security Council to combat massive violations of human rights.

The 47-page annual report was his first evaluation of U.N. activities since taking office in January and runs through the gamut of controversies facing the world body.

"Never before in its history has the United Nations been so action-oriented, so actively engaged, and so widely expected to respond to needs both immediate and persuasive," he said in the report, citing complex peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Yugoslavia, Somalia, Angola and El Salvador.

Analysing the U.N.'s perennial cash shortage, Dr. Ghali said states were behind \$908.5 million in regular dues and \$844.4 million in peacekeeping contributions for a total of more than \$1.7 billion.

The United States owes about \$731 million of this amount but intends to pay more than \$300 million by December.

He said that at the end of August he was able to pay staff salaries only by borrowing from peacekeeping funds.

"Perennial shortages, the absence of reserves and debilitating uncertainty over the immediate

future, are the main characteristics of the financial situation," he said.

As his predecessor Javier Perez de Cuellar before him, Dr. Ghali recommended that interest be charged on monies paid late and he be authorised to borrow commercially should other sources of cash be inadequate.

He also proposed a peacekeeping reserve fund of \$50 million to meet initial expenses, a request expected to be approved by the General Assembly later in the year.

And he suggested a levy on arms sales and on international air travel, but diplomats believe this will not be adopted.

On human rights, Dr. Ghali said that the "long-term credibility of our organisation as a whole will depend on the success of our response to this challenge."

He said the activities of current commissions handling rights abuses were not able to cope with "massive human rights violations" in face of "the barbaric conduct which fills the news media today."

Consequently, he suggested, he and other U.N. human rights bodies be empowered to recommend action to the Security Council, a proposal bound to be criticised by numerous states as undue interference in internal affairs under the U.N. charter.

Russian troops take key Tajik points under control

MOSCOW (R) — Russian troops have taken control of a key mountain pass in Tajikistan separating opponents and supporters of ousted Tajik President Rakhmon Nabiyev, the Russian Defence Ministry said Friday.

The action, sanctioned by Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov, is certain to be welcomed among Central Asian neighbours fearful conflict could engulf the entire region.

But Russian involvement may anger militant Tajiks including Islamic factions, whose influence has grown since Mr. Nabiyev's removal.

A ministry spokesman said troops had been deployed at the Chermozak Pass, scene of fighting this week, at a strategic bridge and at the nearby Nurek Hydroelectric Power Station.

"The troops have been brought in only to protect the sites. They will stay as long as necessary," the spokesman said, refusing to give details.

There were no reports of resistance to Thursday's operation by the 201st Motor Rifle Division, formerly a Soviet army unit in the Central Asian republic and now under Russian control.

Roh quits ruling party, pledges cabinet reshuffle

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said Friday he would quit the ruling party, yielding to a key opposition demand that he remain neutral in elections for his successor later this year.

"President Roh will quit the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to remain thoroughly neutral in the management of the presidential poll," his spokesman said.

Mr. Roh also pledged to change his cabinet to try to avert a political storm over an election fraud which has severely tainted the image of his government.

The spokesman said a sweeping reshuffle was likely to be announced after Mr. Roh's trip to China from Sept. 27 to 30. He even added that it might even affect Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik.

"The president has made the bold decision to form a neutral cabinet that will manage the election in a fair and clean manner, free from controversy about government meddling in campaigns," the spokesman said.

The opposition, which had long

defiantly Mr. Roh leave the party to guarantee neutrality, cautiously welcomed his departure and the proposed formation of a new cabinet.

"We welcome these steps if they are truly intended to ensure fairness in the elections," said an official for the main opposition Democratic Party (DP).

Roh steps down as head of state in February after a single five-year term in office. He is barred by law from standing again.

The president held talks Friday with DLP leader Kim Young-Sam to discuss possible cabinet changes following revelations of vote-buying and bribery in March general elections.

The spokesman said Mr. Roh asked Mr. Kim, the DLP's presidential candidate, to consult opposition parties in selecting members of a new cabinet.

He noted it was the first time in South Korea's history that an incumbent president quit the ruling party to ensure a fair election. He said Mr. Roh was expected to leave the party officially early next month.

Italian Senate approves Maastricht Treaty

ROME (R) — The Italian Senate overwhelmingly has approved the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

Approval of the treaty on European political, economic and monetary union by the lower Chamber of Deputies is virtually certain.

Government leaders had all pushed for the Senate to debate the treaty before next Sunday's French referendum to boost the "yes" vote in France.

Italy's lira was devalued by seven per cent last Sunday against other currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS), and Italy effectively suspended its currency from the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) Thursday.

Economists say the lira would probably take another battering if the French reject the treaty. The currency is scheduled to return to its normal place in the ERM next Tuesday, two days after the French referendum.

The Senate voted 176 in favour, 16 against, with one abstention.

EC foreign ministers will meet Monday in New York to discuss the outcome of Sunday's French referendum on the Maastricht Treaty for West European political and economic union, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday.

"France wanted European Community (EC) leaders to meet after Sunday's crucial referendum on the Maastricht Treaty to discuss the outcome of the cliffhanger vote."

Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy, who said he was sure the "yes" vote would win, said President Francois Mitterrand had agreed it would be a good idea to call a European Council meeting to discuss economic and monetary effects of the vote.

"We should indeed ask for it, as soon as possible," Mr. Berégovoy told Radio Europe 1.

The vote comes amid a monetary crisis that has forced two rejigs of the European Monetary System exchange rate grid in four days, and which analysts say would be aggravated by a French "no."

Italy, also called for an emergency EC summit after the referendum to weigh up the results and to restore immediate monetary discipline as quickly as possible.

Mr. Berégovoy said he spoke of the summit by telephone with Mr. Mitterrand who was back at the Elysee Palace after undergoing prostate surgery. The surgery revealed he had prostate cancer.

Doctors said it should not affect his ability to fully perform his duties, which he was due to resume next week.

Maastricht opponents have sought to exploit the 75-year-old Socialist president's unpopularity

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'Russian aid conference to go ahead'

TOKYO (R) — Japan will go ahead with plans to host an international conference on aid to countries of the former Soviet Union, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said last weekend that Japan might scrap plans to host the October conference following Russian President Boris Yeltsin's abrupt cancellation of a visit to Tokyo.

"We want to host an international conference on humanitarian and technological aid to the former Soviet Union..." Mr. Miyazawa told a meeting of Kyodo News Agency's member newspapers. Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in Russia that Japan was too uncompromising in its demands for the return of four islands seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. Japan refused to sign a World War II peace treaty or extend major economic aid to Russia until the dispute is resolved. Mr. Miyazawa indicated this stance was unchanged. "I think Japan's policy of concluding a peace treaty with Russia while solving the territorial dispute is still the country's top issue," he said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday that efforts were under way to improve ties with Russia.

Kohl arrives for talks in Italy

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, arrived in Italy for talks with Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, expressed support for Mr. Amato's austerity plan to control Italy's giant budget deficit, a news report said. The leaders also discussed chaotic European currency markets, which earlier in the day prompted Italy to withdraw the lira from European Community exchange-rate treaties, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) said.

Mr. Kohl expressed German "solidarity" with the measures, ANSA said. The leaders were meeting three days before a French referendum on the Maastricht Treaty on European unity.

Indian police arrest 1,500 Tamils

MADRAS, India (R) — Police in southern India Friday arrested about 1,500 Tamils who had called for the right to self-determination and supported a banned Sri Lankan rebel group, officials said. At least 1,500 people were arrested in the state of Tamil Nadu on charges of sedition, said state police official Walter I. Dawaram. Sedition carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment under Indian law. Mr. Dawaram said many were arrested at home after an early-morning swoop. Others were held when they protested at the earlier detentions, which came a week after a three-day Tamil conference ended with a call for self-determination. "The right of self-determination has to be constitutionally provided," said the final resolution adopted by the conference. The resolution also backed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The main group fighting for a Tamil homeland across the Pal Strait in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. India outlawed the LTTE earlier this year after its leaders were accused of plotting the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The guerrilla group denied responsibility. The former prime minister was blown up by a Tamil woman suicide bomber at an election rally in Tamil Nadu in May 1991.

German neo-Nazis attack hostel

BERLIN (R) — Neo-Nazi youths attacked a hostel for foreign asylum seekers in eastern Germany for the fourth night running, German police said Friday. Up to 40 youths, shouting racist taunts, hurled stones and petrol bombs at the hostel in the Baltic port city of Wismar Thursday night. Riot police detained seven people. The attack on the hostel, part of a wave of xenophobic violence that erupted four weeks ago in the city of Rostock, started Monday after a Romanian stabbed a German at a fair. German prosecutors, meanwhile, said they were pursuing more than 300 investigations into the Rostock riot, when racist youths burned down a foreign asylum hostel. Wolfgang Neumann, Rostock's chief prosecutor, told Reuters that 12 neo-Nazis aged between 16 and 34 had already been sentenced to jail terms of up to eight months for breaching the peace as well as arson. Another 16 were accused of similar crimes while one rightist would soon be charged with attempted murder. More than 20 youths were still being held for investigations.

Irish trawler nets U.S. submarine

KILKEEL, Northern Ireland (AP) — A trawler casting its net for cod in the Irish Sea caught the world's biggest Surgeon — but the crew are certainly glad that this one got away. The U.S. Navy submarine Surgeon nearly dragged the four crewmen to their deaths, the skipper recalled Thursday, with his 60-foot (18 metre) trawler was back home and under repair in Kilkeel Harbour. "Once the boat started to move backwards I knew that something wasn't right," said Paul Johnston, captain of the 54-tonne Lurline, which was pulled like a bathtub toy for more than five minutes off the Scottish coastline Wednesday night. "He nearly pulled me into the path of a ferry. The stern went completely underwater," said Mr. Johnston, 30, who has fished the crowded Irish Sea for 14 years, but until now has never caught anything nuclear-powered.

COLUMN

Dutch balloon builds lead in Atlantic race

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch balloonists built a 30-mile (48-kilometre) lead as they headed into open sea off Nova Scotia on the first balloon race to Europe. But the second-placed U.S. duo was better positioned to climb into stronger westerly winds and officials said the contest was still wide open. "At this point, even the team in last place can finally win the race," said Monique Willems, reserve pilot for the Dutch team. Britain was in third place, Belgium in fourth and Germany in last, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) behind the Dutch, according to the tracking centre at Rotterdam's Zestienhoven Airport. Despite minor scares, the balloons were moving along smoothly and safely, said centre spokesman Joost Janssen. The American competitors, Troy Bradely and Richard Abruzzo, were shaken by a bang that turned out to be a sonic boom from a passing Concorde jet, said Mr. Janssen. And a faulty indicator light made Dutchmen Gerhard Hoogslag and Evert Louwman think a helium valve was leaking. The light was promptly fixed, according to Ms. Willems. The Dutch were passing Soole Island about 180 miles (288 kilometres) southeast of Halifax at 43.03 degrees north latitude and 60.12 degrees west longitude, according to Mr. Janssen.

The music stops at Baths of Caracalla

ROME (R) — Italy's Culture Ministry has banned operas and concerts at the Baths of Caracalla saying they were damaging the 1,800 year-old ruins, one of the glories of ancient Rome. "Staging operas and concerts in the Baths is like staging them in a library. The baths are just not fit to host them," ministry spokesman Roberto Rossetti said. Mr. Rossetti said the Baths — where tenors Jose Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti sang at a concert marking the end of the 1990 soccer World Cup — would no longer host operas and concerts because musical vibrations, stage lighting, and heavy electrical cables were destroying the structure. Culture Minister Alberto Ronchey has revoked the Rome Opera House's 52-year-old licence to stage concerts and operas at the Baths. This season's concerts, which run until the end of September, will not be cancelled, Mr. Rossetti said. He did not know whether the Baths would remain open to tourists. "We are all concerned about preserving (the Baths), but the money that will be lost from ticket sales is going to be an economic blow to the city," said Luciano Pietrangeli, a member of Rome's City Council. The brick Baths were finished in 217 A.D. under the Emperor Caracalla and were considered to be the finest in ancient Rome, with sophisticated heating and hydraulic systems. They could accommodate up to 1,600 bathers at a time.

Marlene Dietrich leaves estate to daughter

NEW YORK (R) — Marlene Dietrich left the bulk of her estate to her only daughter and stipulated that her private letters were never to be published or sold, court papers stated. The actress and entertainer, who died on May 6 in Paris at the age of 90, left an estate of \$350,000 in jewellery, it was disclosed when her will was offered for probate in Manhattan Surrogate Court. Her daughter, Maria E. Riva of New York, told the court in an affidavit that she does not know of any other assets held by her mother. Dietrich, star of Blue Angel and Destry RIDes Again, left a 15-page will dated March 7, 1964, and a two-page codicil made on July 28, 1981 leaving the bulk of the estate to her only child. In the codicil, Dietrich said that any proceeds from the dramatisation of her life are to go to a grandson, John Paul Riva, also of New York, in recognition of the devotion he had shown her "in continuing to correspond with me."

Metropolis plans to ditch Superman

METROPOLIS, Illinois (AP) — Even before news of Superman's imminent death, leaders in this city planned to ditch its claim as home to the man of steel, and his 8-foot (2.4 metre) fiberglass likeness in the city centre. The Ohio River community of 7,000 people wants to capitalise on its geography — and Clark Kentlike, change its image — by going strong for riverboat gambling.